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Japan

MITI on U.S. Right of Trade Retaliation

OW1812082793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0750 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry acknowledges that the United States will continue to have the right to retaliate on unfair trade practices under new GATT rules created to settle disputes, ministry officials said Saturday [18 December].

The officials said if nations are judged as conducting unfair trade under new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rules and do not comply with them, it is "natural" that retaliatory measures such as the 301 article of the 1974 U.S. [Omnibus] Trade Act will be justified.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has said in a letter to the U.S. Congress that the U.S. maintains a right to execute its domestic law, such as the 1974 trade act, in case a country does not comply with GATT decisions.

In the 35-page letter, Clinton said there will be exceptions to the gradual diminishing of voluntary export restraints in four years, citing Japan's voluntary auto export restraints for the European Community, but did not refer to those for the U.S.

Public Works Cost Said 30% Higher Than U.S.

OW2012022693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0159 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—The average cost of public works in Japan is some 30 percent higher than that in the United States, a Construction Ministry report said Monday [20 December]. The report, compiled by the ministry's public works cost calculating committee, said the higher costs in Japan are attributable to more expensive construction materials, machinery and labor.

For instance, cement is some 30 to 50 percent more expensive than in the U.S., and operating costs for bulldozers, cranes and other construction facilities are 30 percent higher.

Labor costs for workers on construction sites in Japan range from equal to those in the U.S. to twice as expensive.

The calculations are based on 1993 prices research results released by the Economic Planning Agency. The average total cost of completed construction projects in Japan was 30 percent higher than in the U.S., when measured against cost simulations of the U.S. interior department, whose assessments are based on construction work currently in progress.

The cost comparison was carried out by using a ministry cost computing formula which takes into account the domestic prices of construction materials in Japan, and assumes a foreign exchange rate of 105 yen to the dollar, ministry officials said.

U.S. Reaction to Patent, Software Talks Noted

OW2112152193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1451 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—The United States hinted Tuesday [21 December] at retaliation against Japan for what it said was lack of progress in trade talks on patent and computer software protection. "The United States is going to have to consider additional approaches for trying to move the intellectual property rights issue forward," said Michael Kirk, assistant commissioner for external affairs at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

In separate talks on the insurance sector, the U.S. and Japan agreed that neither is seeking "numerical targets" to gauge market access. But a Japanese official said Tokyo wants concessions from Washington on market access—a demand the U.S. says violates the "framework" agreement under which they are negotiating.

Kirk refused at a press conference after two days of talks to specify "the litany of actions that might be possible" for what he called Japan's lack of "willingness to take the initiative" in protecting software, patents and other forms of intellectual property. "I am not optimistic about the direction of the talks thus far," Kirk said, citing "little glimmer of agreement on the horizon."

An official at Japan's Patent Office expressed surprise at Kirk's remarks, saying they did not reflect the atmosphere of the talks, which he called "extremely constructive." He said he could not comment on Kirk's remarks at the press conference.

Kirk praised the Japanese Government's caution in responding to calls by some business groups to allow broader rights to "decompile" software—breaking down a program to reconstruct how it was devised so that it can be imitated.

But it was on patent protection that Kirk said "the most difficult sledding" lies ahead. The U.S. is complaining of delays in processing applications, overly narrow court rulings on patent rights, lack of an exclusive rental right for sound recordings and lack of protection for trade secrets.

In the insurance talks, Japan is seeking such measures as "harmonization" of various state regulations governing the industry, a Japanese Finance Ministry official said. "Japan will not offer concessions unless the U.S. side agrees" to reciprocate, he said. But U.S. officials are adamant that only Japan's market, not America's, is subject to negotiation under the framework talks initialed in July.

Officials from both sides said they are not seeking "numerical targets," which Japan blasts as "managed trade." But a U.S. official said, "We're interested in results, concrete results, measurable results."

The U.S. is not setting a certain target market share for foreign insurers and demanding Japan meet it by a certain date or face retaliation, the official insisted. But the official—who at an earlier briefing brandished foreign market-share figures to show Japan's market access below that of other leading nations—said the U.S. wants Japan's market "to look significantly like" those of other leading industrial economies within two to three years.

Agricultural Minister Comments on Rice Issue

OW2112100793 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1200 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Interview with Eijiro Hata, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, by NHK commentator Takanobu Fujita; part of a two-hour special studio program entitled "Opening of Japanese Rice Market" held in Tokyo on 18 December—live]

[Excerpts] Seven years of discussions in the Uruguay Round of GATT, the longest multilateral negotiations of the post-World War II era, have ended leaving Japan with some tough problems to solve. One result is that Japan has been asked to partially open its rice market. An era which has lasted almost half a century since the enactment of the Staple Food Act in 1942 is coming to an end.

Tonight we have two hours of discussion on such points as whether Japan's agriculture will be secured, and whether there is any need to worry about how safe foreign rice is to eat. [passage omitted on introducing guests]

[Fujita] My first question is to Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Hata. President Clinton of the U.S. declared immediately before the conclusion of the Uruguay Round that the United States had won. That gives us the impression that Japan compromised too much. What is your assessment of the agriculture negotiations in the Uruguay Round?

[Hata] You introduce a remark by President Clinton. But this round of negotiations involved 116 countries putting forward their views and staking their national interests. Each knew their own legislature would have to ratify the agreement, so it is no surprise that GATT member nations were each claiming they would benefit from the agreement. This was a general trend. Japan had to make a very difficult and painful decision, but it was done to protect our national interest and each nation had to compromise to promote so-called global free trade.

[Fujita] Tariffication of rice will be delayed for six years, thanks to the agreement. Do you think that we will be able to continue to refuse tariffication after that? What will happen after six years?

[Hata] This is an extremely important point. The agreement says that we will resume discussions one year before the six-year period runs out. This means that we do not have to accept tariffication. In other words, there is an element [yoso] which says that we will be able to continue to keep the currently agreed special treatment intact. Unfortunately, some people have misunderstood the agreement and say we can only delay tariffication for six years, not avoid it. Our basic policy is to avoid tariffication after the moratorium expires. We believe we will stick with this policy.

[Fujita] Thank you very much. I will come back to you later for more details. [passage omitted on opinions of citizens on rice issue] Mr. Minister, as you just heard, some people say the government betrayed the people at the last minute after saying it would not open up the rice market. How do you respond?

[Hata] The Japanese Government makes decisions of its own free will on purely domestic matters. Unfortunately, however, other countries were involved in the rice issue and the matter had to be dealt with through diplomatic negotiations. In addition, we have a Diet resolution which calls for 100 percent self-sufficiency in rice. However, that does not mean we are able to act only in accordance with the Diet resolution. If that were not true, then there would be no room for negotiation. In this sense, we did not betray the people. It sometimes happens that our basic policy is not accepted 100 percent. I would like to ask the people to try to understand the difficulties of the situation.

[Fujita] Thank you very much. I will come back to you again later. [passage omitted explaining the details of the GATT agricultural agreement] Mr. Minister, is it not true that Japan will be asked to make additional compromises, even if it does not accept tariffication in the seventh year or thereafter? If so, then the minimum quantity of imported rice allowed will be increased. Some worry this could lead to a gradual opening of the Japanese market. Can you comment on this?

[Hata] Unfortunately, some people misunderstand the point. The agreement says that we will resume negotiations in the sixth year to discuss what will happen once the moratorium expires. It also stipulates that some additional clauses may be added to the agreement. However, one of the things we talked about during the recent negotiations were future environmental concerns. Another was the issue of securing food supply. We agreed to resume discussions in the sixth year and to then treat these as very important issues. To be more specific, we will be able to continue avoiding tariffication without increasing the final minimum access percentage, which is 8 percent. We can do that by making additional compromises in other fields. I would like people to understand that this may be the overall outcome.

[Fujita] Let me ask you another question. As far as minimum access is concerned, we will import 380,000 tons of rice in the first year [fiscal 1995]. Eventually, this figure will rise to 760,000 tons. Now, because of cold-weather damage, the government says domestic farmers should increase the acreage of rice paddies to increase rice production. Do you not think we will have to reduce the acreage of rice paddies again once we start importing rice?

[Hata] I can give you my word that we will not make further reductions in rice paddy acreage as a result of minimum access rice imports. Moreover, we will actively look into such things as the ideal quantity of rice to have in storage for emergencies and new ways to increase rice consumption. We will clearly maintain our basic policy of maintaining self-sufficiency in rice and by doing so we will remove the pain, apprehension, and anxiety that face farmers.

[Fujita] You mentioned the rice stockpile. How are you going to manage the stockpile?

[Hata] The reasonable level for our rice stockpile is one million tons. Unfortunately, we have no rice in storage from now until next year. We plan to stockpile 1.3 million tons of rice over the next two years. At any rate, we should keep enough rice in stock to deal with an emergency such as we had this year.

[Fujita] The Food Agency held a party to sample imported rice. Some at the party said they want the government to sell imported rice separately from domestic rice, without mixing the two. They suggested putting the imported rice in small, 2-kg packages as a consumer trial. What do you think of the idea of blending imported ride with domestic rice?

[Hata] I was at the sampling party. Some wholesalers feel they can sell imported rice without blending, others believe it will sell better if it is blended. We will make a decision after listening to opinions of consumers as well as wholesalers. I feel we have to solve the problem by keeping firmly in mind that we have to meet the needs of both wholesalers and consumers.

[Fujita] Are you saying imported rice will not necessarily be blended with domestic rice?

[Hata] Yes. That is what we are thinking for minimum access rice. However, we are in short supply of rice this year, so in the short term we may have to mix imported rice with domestic rice. If not, we may face a situation in which only imported rice is available in the market during an off-crop season. We imported rice this year as an emergency case. Therefore, we have no choice but to adopt as a basic policy the blending of imported rice with domestic rice. I want the people to understand this.

[Fujita] Let me ask you one more question. It is not reasonable that the government should sell inexpensive foreign rice at the same price as domestic rice. So, why will the government not sell it more cheaply.

[Hata] First, some farmers think rice growing will collapse if the government sells imported rice at one-fifth or one-sixth the price of the domestic rice. This is a misunderstanding. We will use rice producers' current rice prices as a standard. In other words, we are thinking of selling imported rice at about the same price as for domestic rice if the quality is the same.

On the other hand, consumers expect imported rice to be sold more cheaply. We have to give full consideration to the fact that it is also in the interests of the consumers to maintain a stable supply system under which farmers can comfortably produce rice. I would like to ask consumers to understand this.

However, imported glutinous rice will be between 10 and 20 percent cheaper than domestic rice, even for the same quality. We intend to give full consideration to the consumers' point of view. Differences in quantity or flavor will be reflected in prices. I think imported glutinous rice will be cheaper than domestic glutinous rice. [passage omitted]

2.2 Million Tons of Imported Rice Said Needed

OW2112111793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1104 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Japan must import as much as 2.2 million tons of rice in the year ending October 30, 1994, to make up for a shortage caused by this year's poor harvest, according to an official estimate released Tuesday [21 December].

The estimate by the Food Agency is double the 1.1 million tons the agency has scheduled to import by next March under its import program announced so far, and accounts for more than 20 percent of global rice trade.

"We'll make an additional purchase in the not so distant future," an agency official said in reference to the extra 1.1 million tons of rice.

A breakdown of the needed rice imports is as follows:

—1.6 to 1.8 million tons of nonglutinous rice for table use.
—130,000 tons of glutinous rice for rice cake.
—300,000 tons for use in processed foods.

Rice Imports To Help Bring Down Standard Price

OW2112041093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0302 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—The Food Agency intends to resume in February distribution of standard price rice, mixed with imported rice, for table use, agency officials said Tuesday. The agency will officially adopt the plan after gaining approval from the Rice Price Council, which is to meet in mid-January, they said.

If standard price rice is entirely made up of imported rice, the agency will accept a price set below the government-suggested standard price.

Sales of standard price rice, known as cheap rice, are currently suspended owing to market uncertainty following the poor rice crop this year that resulted from an unusually wet summer.

However, the agency has begun stockpiling imported rice, which is much cheaper than domestically produced rice, on an emergency basis, for subsequent sale as government-controlled standard price rice. The first such rice for table use arrived Monday last week from California.

The agency wants to move quickly to distribute the imported rice, particularly in major rice consuming areas such as Tokyo and Osaka because it is polished rice, which is subject to rapid deterioration.

The price of imported rice from California and Australia will be set at around that of middle-grade government-controlled rice since such imports are similar in quality to the domestic product, rice wholesale sources said. However, long-grain rice imported from Thailand should be priced lower since it has a "worse taste," they said.

The present network of distributors will be capable of handling sales of the rice imports, an official of the rice retailers' association said. "If standard price rice includes imported rice as its major component, the standard price will be pulled down," he said.

UN's Butrus-Ghali Continues Visit Activities

Scholarship Fund Established

OW2012120393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali attended a ceremony Monday [20 December] establishing a Japan-based scholarship fund in his name. The ceremony for the Butrus Butrus-Ghali Scholarship Fund was held at the Tokyo Headquarters of the United Nations University.

The fund is aimed at providing one-year scholarships to young postgraduate researchers or scholars who have the potential to become leaders in their respective fields. The fund will be administered by a steering committee of the foundation for the support of the United Nations, comprised of Japanese scholars and senior U.N. personnel.

The first scholarship is scheduled to be awarded in June 1994.

Butrus-Ghali arrived in Tokyo on Saturday for a five-day visit.

Discusses Yeltsin's Reform, DPRK

OW2112121293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali predicted Tuesday [21 December] there will be no change in Russian President Boris Yeltsin's reform campaign despite big gains by extreme nationalists in the December 12 parliamentary elections. Butrus-Ghali made the prediction in a meeting with former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone at a Tokyo hotel, Nakasone aides said.

The aides said the U.N. chief made the comment after Nakasone expressed concern about the unexpectedly strong popularity of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party in the poll.

In a separate meeting with Yohei Kono, president of the largest Japanese opposition party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Butrus-Ghali expressed concern that North and South Korea might have a fear of each other.

The U.N. chief, who will visit both Seoul and Pyongyang after his Tokyo trip, hinted that the United Nations is prepared to broker talks between the United States and North Korea if the North seeks renewed dialogue with Washington, LDP officials said.

They said Butrus-Ghali reiterated his desire to deal with North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development program through a negotiated settlement despite some U.N. members' calls for a tougher stance against Pyongyang.

In an address to the U.N. Association of Japan earlier in the day, Butrus-Ghali said there is "no relation" between Japan's bid to become a permanent Security Council member and its participation in peacekeeping operations of the world body.

"There is no relation between the permanent seat at the Security Council and participation in peacekeeping operations," Butrus-Ghali said, adding he wants to "reassure" Japanese public opinion on that point.

Butrus-Ghali, who will leave Japan on Wednesday after a five-day stay, was reiterating remarks he made Monday to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa that a military role is not a prerequisite for permanent membership in the Security Council. "On the contrary, you will take the decision, but the fact that you take the decision does not imply at all that you will be asked to participate in the implementation of this decision," he said.

Butrus-Ghali told Defense Agency Chief Kazuo Aichi in another meeting that it will be difficult for the United Nations to engage in new large-scale peackeeping operations because of limited capacity. He told Aichi that the U.N. will review its peacekeeping operations in the last two years, Defense Agency officials said after the meeting.

Aichi praised Butrus-Ghali for helping the Japanese public deepen their understanding of Tokyo's potential bid for permanent membership on the U.N. Security Council.

In an interview with Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK), Butrus-Ghali stressed that it is up to the "political will of Japan" and support from other countries whether Tokyo wins a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

While Butrus-Ghali did not repeat earlier remarks to Hosokawa and Japanese reporters that he personally supports permanent membership for Japan, he made clear in his address to the U.N. Association of Japan his high regard for Japan's role in the world body.

"Since its admission to the United Nations in 1956, no other nation has given such a central place in its foreign policy to the purposes and principles of the United Nations," he said.

Butrus-Ghali called Japanese financial support for the U.N. "crucial." Japan is the second largest contributor to the U.N.'s regular budget after the United States.

In the interview with NHK, Butrus-Ghali said he is not coming to Japan to ask for additional financial assistance or peacekeeping forces.

He said he is in Japan to convey the message that "the United Nations needs Japan. It is in the interest of the United Nations to have more participation from the member states."

Butrus-Ghali said he is visiting South Korea, North Korea and China for talks with their leaders and is prepared to offer help if asked by Pyongyang or Beijing.

Meets With Emperor Akihito

OW2112061793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0536 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Tuesday met Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace in central Tokyo. The empress, who lost her voice after collapsing in October but according to the agency has "partly" recovered her ability to speak, greeted Butrus-Ghali in whispers, a palace official said.

The emperor told Butrus-Ghali that he was glad to see him again after their meeting during his visit to Japan in February, according to Kiyoshi Sumiya, grand master of ceremonies of the Imperial Household Agency. During the 30-minute meeting, the UN chief explained the situation in former Yugoslavia, at which the emperor expressed regret, recalling his visit there 17 years ago, Sumiya said.

Butrus-Ghali leaves Japan on Wednesday after a five-day stay in which he has met Japanese Government officials.

Mexico's Salinas Continues Visit Activities

Vows NAFTA 'Equal Treatment'

OW2112075193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0620 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari vowed Tuesday [21 December] to give "equal treatment" to Japanese and other foreign businesses ready to invest in Mexico as that enjoyed by U.S. firms under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). "Under the NAFTA accord...all the foreign business firms that will invest in Mexico will be given equal treatment under same laws and same systems, whichever country they may originate from," Salinas said.

"Japan means a chance for Mexico," Salinas told a news conference at the Japan National Press Club. "We want to strengthen its relations with Japan further."

He said he told GATT Director General Peter Sutherland two months ago that the agreement—among Mexico, the U.S. and Canada—is not designed to exclude any foreign countries.

Salinas, who is on a four-day visit for talks with Japanese business and political leaders, is to meet with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa later in the day.

"The very fact that Mexico has strong ties with North America provides the rationale for Mexico to diversify its trading partners," he said.

He met with top Japanese bankers on Tuesday morning and attended a luncheon meeting hosted by the Federation of Economic Organizations.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE in Mexico city last week, Salinas said Mexico will soon lift curbs on foreign banks' operations.

Salinas told the National Press Club audience that Japanese banks will expand financial relations with Mexico, saying that under new legislation, all Japanese banks with subsidiaries in the U.S. or Canada would be allowed to open offices in Mexico.

Mexico ran an external debt of some 101 billion dollars as of the end of 1991, of which 78 billion dollars was long-term pubic debt. In the year, the cost of debt-servicing was equivalent to 30.9 percent of the value of exports of goods and services.

Salinas appealed for foreign businesses interested in investing in Mexico to help boost the nation's wealth and living standards, saying he did not want foreign firms to use it as "a mere trampoline from which they would export to third countries" in North and Latin America.

Says NAFTA Not 'Exclusive' Bloc

OW2112115193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on Tuesday [21 December] dismissed suggestions that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) aims to form an exclusive regional trading bloc. "Mexico will not transform NAFTA into an economic fortress," he said.

Salinas, on a four-day visit to Japan, made the pledge at a lecture meeting with diplomats, academics and journalists at the United Nations University in Tokyo.

"In the process of negotiations leading up to the conclusion of the NAFTA, Mexico sought to put in provisions that would enable it to conclude free trade agreements with other regions of the world," he said.

"All the agreements Mexico inked are open to participation by other countries," said the president, who held extensive investment talks with Japan's big business groups, including the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations.

"Two months ago, I told GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) Director General Peter Sutherland the NAFTA is not designed to exclude any foreign countries," he told a news conference at the Japan National Press Club. "The very fact that Mexico has strong ties with North America provides the rationale for Mexico to diversify its trading partners," he said.

Some trading partners of Mexico, the United States and Canada—the three NAFTA signatories—have expressed concern that the pact might erect barriers by creating a trade entity similar to the European Community.

Salinas, however, told the U.N. University audience, "Mexico will be able to expand its trading relations with Japan." Salinas said there are a lot of opportunities in his country for Japanese businesses.

"Japan means a chance for Mexico," Salinas said at the National Press Club. "We want to strengthen relations with Japan further."

At the U.N. University, he called on Japan to transfer the fruits of its high technology development, saying, "Mexico wants to be a beneficiary of the outcome of scientific research being conducted in Japan's many research institutes."

"We also hope for capital inflows from Japan," he said.

Salinas said the Mexican Government is striving to boost its manufacturing industry's international competitiveness by providing a good education to its children, saying, "We are spending a record 5.7 percent of our gross domestic product on education."

"Let's look at Japan. Japan's economic success resulted from the world's largest government spending on the basic education of its children," he told the U.N. University audience.

Turning to environmental matters, he said, "We must secure a balance between science and conscience. It would be an act lacking common·sense if our efforts at development led us to pay a high price of destroying our common assets of the nature."

As for the international political situation, Salinas said there is no such thing as a "new world order," which some politicians thought might be created following the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Attends 'Working Dinner' 21 Dec

OW2112135793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1340 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Japan and Mexico are entering a new era of partnership following the successful adoption of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Mexico's joining of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Tuesday [21 December].

Hosokawa made the remark at a working dinner with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at the premier's official residence, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Hosokawa also pledged that Japan will offer a cultural grant-in-aid of 49 million yen for Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History, and will also send a mission to study Japan's technical cooperation for a planned environment research and training center in Mexico City, the officials said.

During the working dinner, which lasted more than an hour and a half, Hosokawa told Salinas that the relationship between Japan and Mexico will further deepen as a result of the soon-to-be-implemented NAFTA in January and Mexico's recent membership in the APEC, they said. Salinas thanked Japan for its support for Mexico's bid to become an APEC member, they said.

He was also quoted as saying Mexico will ensure that NAFTA will not discriminate against other countries economically and that it will be in line with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who also attended the working dinner, urged Mexico to allow Japanese banks to operate there, they said.

Salinas responded that Japanese banks will not be able to directly operate in Mexico for the time being but that he hopes to fully open Mexico's financial market in the future, according to the officials. Mexico has virtually shut its doors to foreign banks other than the United States' Citibank, which opened a resident branch before the country established its current banking law.

Hosokawa and Salinas agreed to hold a follow-up session early next year to a bilateral wisemen's meeting on bilateral ties in the 21st century, the officials said. The two leaders also discussed political and economic reforms of both countries, they said.

Earlier in the day, Mexico's Foreign Affairs Secretary Manuel Camacho Solis met his Japanese counterpart Hata. Camacho told Hata the success of NAFTA and Mexico's membership in APEC would pave the way for Mexico's new economic development, they said.

Salinas met with top Japanese bankers on Tuesday morning and attended a luncheon meeting hosted by the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

In a lecture meeting at the United Nations University in Tokyo, Salinas pledged that NAFTA will be a pro-free trade entity.

"Mexico will not transform NAFTA into an economic fortress," he said.

DPRK Accused of Blocking A-Bomb Victim Survey

OW2112144193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1125 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Hiroshima, Dec. 21 KYODO—North Korea is blocking a Japanese survey on A-bomb sufferers in North Korea apparently in retaliation for Japan's stance on Pyongyang's alleged nuclear weapons program, a group concerned with North Korean A-bomb victims said Tuesday [21 Tuesday].

Yi Sil-kun, leader of the Council of A-Bombed (North) Koreans in Hiroshima Prefecture, said Pyongyang authorities until last year actively supported negotiations aimed at securing medical treatment in Japan for an estimated 2,000 victims of the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, who are living in North Korea.

However, Pyongyang twice this year, in October and November, turned down Yi's request for a visit to the country to confirm if a promised survey on the situation of North Korean A-bomb sufferers has made any progress.

Pyongyang's about-face might be linked to the collapse of normalization talks with Tokyo in November last year or Japanese concern over North Korea's new medium-range Nodong-1 missile, Yi said. The negotiations, aimed at establishing diplomatic relations, were suspended after the eighth round mainly because of Japanese objections to North Korea's refusal to accept international and South Korean inspections of its nuclear facilities.

"It's cynical that the A-bomb victims in North Korea suffer because of North Korea's nuclear problem," Yi said. Yi's group has received some 40 letters from ailing A-bomb sufferers in North Korea, who hope for medical treatment in Japan.

"I am frightened and wondering every day when am I going to die," a woman operated on three times for breast cancer possibly caused by the bomb's radiation, wrote from a Pyongyang hospital, Yi said. She died recently, a fate which Yi believes other aging A-bomb sufferers will share if the humanitarian problem is not treated separately from political animosities and the resumption of normalization talks.

Yi said Tokyo could probably help soften Pyongyang's stance if Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa "sincerely apologized" for Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule on the Korean peninsula, as he did to South Koreans during a visit to Seoul in November.

A-bomb sufferers living abroad may apply for a health card entitling them to free medical treatment in Japan, provided the Japanese Government has recognized them as "hibakusha" or A-bomb victims.

Pyongyang, after prolonged negotiations with Yi's council and another Japanese partner organization, so far has allowed only two A-bomb sufferers to travel to Japan to receive medical treatment, Yi said.

ROK Trade Association on Trade Surplus Figures

SK1812023893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0058 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—A strong yen has not slowed the rise of Japan's trade surplus, nearly half of it with neighboring Asian countries, the Korea Foreign Trade Association said Saturday. Japan had exports of 328.2 billion U.S. dollars and imports of 220.7 billion dollars in January-November, boosting its surplus by 22.3 billion dollars from a year earlier to 108.1 billion dollars.

Japan's surplus with South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines surged 9.7 billion dollars to 48.1 billion dollars, or 44.4 percent of its total surplus.

Even though Asian countries sharply increased their exports to Japan because of the yen's strength, Japan's trade surplus with them soared as Japanese exporters took steps to offset the yen's strength. All eight Asian countries saw their trade deficits with Japan increase in the eleven months.

South Korean exports to Japan were almost unchanged while imports rose 6.2 percent and the trade deficit reached 6.56 billion dollars, up 1 billion dollars.

Taiwanese exports grew 2.1 percent and imports rose 4.9 percent, adding 760 million dollars to the trade deficit.

Hong Kong exports shrank 2.8 percent while imports climbed 11.2 percent, adding 2.1 billion dollars to the deficit.

Singapore exports rose 16 percent while imports jumped 29 percent and the trade deficit increased by 2.9 billion dollars.

The trade deficits of Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia widened by 1.37 billion dollars, 290 million dollars, 1.15 billion dollars and 100 million dollars, respectively.

Among Asian countries, only China had a surplus with Japan. But its 3.1 billion dollars was only half of last year's 6 billion dollars.

Tokyo Agrees To Study Russian Storage Issue

OW2112144093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Japan agreed Tuesday [21 December] to study the possibility of providing Russia with an emergency storage facility such as a chemical tanker to hold liquid radioactive waste that might otherwise be dumped into the ocean, Foreign Ministry officials said. Japan agreed to consider the Russian request for the emergency storage facility at a bilateral experts' meeting held at the Foreign Ministry, the officials said.

The two sides reconfirmed that it is essential to prevent further dumping of low-level liquid radioactive waste into the ocean by Russia, they said.

Russia told Japan it is storing about 1,900 tons of liquid radioactive waste in four vessels and other facilities around Vladivostok but that the storage capacity is nearly full. The environment in the Russian Far East is in "critical" danger because, for example, one of the old vessels storing the liquid radioactive waste has a hole in it that might pose a threat in bad weather, the Russian delegation was quoted as saying.

Russia explained that emergency measures are necessary to cope with the situation and asked for Japanese cooperation in finding a chemical tanker with a storage capacity of between 5,000 tons and 25,000 tons, the officials said.

An estimated 5,000 tons of liquid radioactive waste are generated annually in Russia as a result of the dismantling of nuclear-powered submarines.

A 100 million dollar fund pledged by Japan to Moscow to help Russia scrap its obsolete nuclear weapons will be utilized to purchase the tanker or some other facility for emergency storage, they said. The tanker would be a used one, since it would take more than a year to build a new one.

The two sides agreed to hold another experts' meeting in Moscow in early January to further discuss the matter, they said.

Russia dumped 900 tons of liquid nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan on October 17. It suspended a planned second dumping following international protests, particularly from Japan and South Korea.

Tuesday's meeting was attended by Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Michail Kokeev and five other officials from the Atomic Energy Ministry, the Navy and the Pacific Fleet.

The Japanese group was headed by Yukiya Amano, director of the Foreign Ministry's Science and Nuclear Energy Division. Officials from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and Science and Technology Agency also attended.

At the meeting, Japan and Russia also reconfirmed plans to conduct joint research on the Sea of Japan in mid-January, the officials said.

South Korea will also take part in the joint research, which will sample both water and sediment around the point where Russia dumped the waste in October. Officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) may also be aboard the research ship, they said.

The Japanese and Russian delegations also basically agreed to conduct a second joint research expedition next summer if possible, they said.

The two sides will hold a joint working group meeting in Tokyo in March to discuss the results of January's joint survey, details of the proposed second investigation and other problems involving the storage of radioactive waste, they said.

On Wednesday, the Russian delegation will visit radioactive waste storage and processing facilities in the village of Tokai in Ibaraki Prefecture, the officials said.

Government Recognizes Ex-Yugoslavia's Macedonia

OW2112005593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0032 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Japan recognized Tuesday [21 December] the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, which declared independence September 18, 1991, Foreign Ministry officials said. The government approved the recognition at a regular cabinet meeting, the officials said.

Macedonia is the 187th nation recognized by Japan.

With a population of some two million, Macedonia is one of the six republics which constituted the former Yugoslavia. It joined the United Nations in April this year.

Japan's recognition of Macedonia came shortly after suggestions by Yasushi Akashi, chief of U.N. peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia, that Japan participate in the operations in the Balkan region.

Akashi, a Japanese national, cited Macedonia as well as central and northern Croatia as potential locations where the Japanese Self-Defense Forces could send peacekeepers even under the constraints of Japanese law.

On Monday, Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata told U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali that Japan is considering sending a fact-finding mission to the region to study the possibility of Japanese contributions there.

But a high-ranking Foreign Ministry source denied that the mission paves a way for Japan's participation in the U.N. peacekeeping activities there, citing differences between the situations in Cambodia and the former Yugoslavia.

Greece Protests Recognition

OW2112112093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Greece has protested Japan's decision Tuesday [21 December] to extend diplomatic recognition to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Foreign Ministry officials said. Greek Ambassador to Japan Yeorgios Sioris delivered a message of protest to the Foreign Ministry on Monday, a day before Japan's decision on recognition, officials said.

Greek diplomatic officials in Tokyo said the message argued that recognition of the government in Skopje under the name "Macedonia" will "enhance the intransigence" of that state vis-a-vis its relations with Greece.

The message also said Greece considers that recognition will hinder the solution of problems facing the former Yugoslavia as a whole, considering that previous widespread recognition of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina led to bloodshed in those states.

Issei Nomura, director general of the Foreign Ministry's European and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, told the Greek envoy that Japan took its decision based on the fact that Macedonia met its criteria for recognition, officials said He further explained Japan's view that international recognition should contribute to the stabilization of that area of the Balkan peninsula, they said.

Last week, Greece accused six of its European Community partners—Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands—of damaging foreign policy unity by deciding to set up ties with Macedonia.

Athens says the state's use of the historical Greek name "Macedonia," as well as its use of historic Greek emblems on its flag, imply territorial claims against the northern Greek province of Macedonia.

Hosokawa Comments on MITI Power Struggle

OW2112140993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1354 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Tuesday [21 December] it is up to International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai to settle a dispute with a top ministry bureaucrat. "It's a personnel affair within the ministry, so I'll let the minister handle it," Hosokawa told a group of reporters at his official residence.

The dispute pits Kumagai against the ministry's Industrial Policy Bureau head Masahisa Naito, with Kumagai demanding last week that Naito resign for promoting an underling just a week before the subordinate was due to quit the ministry to run for lower house elections in July.

Naito told a group of reporters Tuesday night that he has no intention of resigning.

"What I have to do right now is my best on my job. A civil servant should be assessed from the viewpoint of the job he does for the sake of the people," Naito said.

Naito promoted Yasufumi Tanahashi, a son of former vice trade minister, to planning officer in the General Affairs Division of the MITI Minister's Secretariat shortly before Tanahashi quit to run for the elections. He failed to win election.

Earlier Tuesday, MITI Minister Kumagai cited the controversial promotion as a reason for urging Naito to resign, saying, "Although promoting officials just before running in an election is not illegal, I don't think it much to the point at all."

SDPJ Group Founded; USDP To Be Disbanded

OW2112122093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1207 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Scores of legislators of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] set up a new interparty policy study group Tuesday [21 December] to enhance a realignment of political parties in Japan. Forty lawmakers of the SDP, the largest force within the ruling coalition, participated in the inaugural meeting of the group called "Democrats."

The number of its members will eventually amount to about 70, equaling half of the SDP's total strength in both houses of the Diet, Hirotaka Akamatsu, secretary general of the group, told reporters.

In the short run, the group aims to support the seven-party coalition of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and help push a package of political reform bills through the Diet, on which the premier has staked his political future.

It will eventually "initiate a reconfiguration of political parties while trying to call together broad-ranging political forces," according to the group's basic policy statement.

The Democrats, formed on the basis of eight existing policy study groups within the SDP, are widely expected to make Hokkaido Gov. Takahiro Yokomichi, a former SDP lawmaker in the House of Representatives, their leader in the future. But Akamatsu, a former SDP secretary general, said Yokomichi's leadership would be welcome but added the group cannot achieve it so easily as Yokomichi is an incumbent governor.

With the establishment of the group, the United Social Democratic Party (USDP), a minor component within the coalition, will be disbanded in January as the party has completed its role in history, Shogo Abe, acting leader of the USDP, told the gathering.

"The USDP's role in history is over," Abe said. "Now that the Democrats have been established, it is about time (the USDP) stopped its activities." He said the USDP will hold a meeting of representatives from across the nation in January to take interparty procedures for the dissolution of the 16-year-old party.

Currently, the USDP holds four seats in the House of Representatives and one in the House of Councillors. USDP leader Satsuki Eda, who is chief of the Science and Technology Agency, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE the USDP's dissolution would be a first step toward political realignment.

"The democrats were formed today, and the SDP's party convention and political reform will top the agenda next year," Eda said. "The eventual dissolution (of the SDP) is certain."

Hata: LDP Secession 'Honorable Betrayal'

OW2112131593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata told his Mexican counterpart on Tuesday [21 December] his defection in June along with some 40 renegade legislators from the Liberal Democratic Party constituted an "honorable betrayal." Hata also defended the secession of the legislators who immediately formed Shinseito (the Japan Renewal Party) as "a revolution" in talks with Mexico's Foreign Affairs Secretary Manuel Camacho Solis [as received].

Camacho is accompanying Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on his four-day trip to Japan.

The meeting marked Hata's second encounter with Camacho whom he first met in September 1992 when, as finance minister of the LDP government, he visited Mexico.

Asked by Camacho about some rival Japanese politicians' remarks that Hata and other Shinseito members are "traitors," Hata, co-leader of Shinseito, said, "we are not traitors. It (the defection) was a sort of revolution. We are honorable betrayers."

Hata and other Shinseito legislators split from the LDP on June 22 after voting with the opposition camp on a non-confidence motion against the administration of then Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who his critics said had reneged on a promise to implement antigraft legislation.

The action led to the July general elections and subsequently to the end of the LDP's 38-year grip on power.

Government Regulations Increase Despite Cuts

OW2112061593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0442 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—The government has failed to achieve its target of slashing the volume of government regulations by 10 percent, the chief of the Management and Coordination Agency said Tuesday [21 December].

Koshiro Ishida told reporters after Tuesday's cabinet meeting that the government had removed only 750 of the regulations overseen by ministries and agencies as of the end of November.

The Management and Coordination Agency decided in May to cut the volume of licensing and approval powers by 10 percent as part of a stimulus package formulated in April by then Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. These regulatory powers totalled 10,942 as of March, 1992. Ministries were requested to submit final reports on their deregulatory programs by the end of December.

The International Trade and Industry Ministry topped the list by cutting 230 regulations, followed by the Transport Ministry with 150 and the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry with 110, Ishida said.

Because of the introduction of new regulations, however, the total number of regulatory powers has in fact increased, reaching a record high of 11,402 as of the end of March this year, according to the latest statistics released by the agency in December.

MOF Seeks To Revitalize Stock Market

OW2112035893 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] The Ministry of Finance [MOF] will work out a package of measures to revitalize the stock market and announce it within a week. The measures will include resumption of jika hakko zoshi [capital increase by issuing new shares at the market price]. In September, the MOF compiled a 30-point package of measures to revitalize the slumping stock market, including deregulation and simplification of procedures. However, following confusion on the stock market caused by the issuance of JR [Japan Railways] stocks, stock prices have sharply dropped and market conditions have further worsened. For this reason, the MOF has decided to work out a new package of measures to revitalize the market. Among the measures are: 1) resuming a system of jika hakko zoshi under which companies can increase capital by issuing new shares at the market price; 2) easing regulations for Japanese companies' issuance of corporate bonds in foreign countries; and 3) improving standards for the operation of investment trusts to make them more attractive. Jika hakko zoshi has been banned in principle since the spring of 1990 because a continuing increase in shares on the stock market would lead to a slump on the market. The MOF will limit jika hakko zoshi to companies capable of increasing their dividends by 20 percent from the current level. The MOF believes that if shares attracting investors are increased on the market following the introduction of jika hakko zoshi, this will help revitalize the sluggish stock market.

Kubota: New Measures To Take Effect Singly

OW2112035593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0243 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—The government will launch additional measures to stimulate the economy as soon as they are approved by the ministries concerned, rather than trying to compile them into a single package, Japan's chief economic planner said Tuesday [21 December]. "Additional measures will not come in a single package," Manae Kubota, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), told reporters after a regular cabinet meeting.

Previous stimulus measures have been launched by the government in packages arranged by the agency.

Kubota said once decisions are made by ministries and agencies on measures they can take, the government will launch them on a "first come, first served" basis. She hinted at an income tax cut as one of the options, saying it is "being considered."

A third supplementary budget for the current fiscal year, ending next March 31, will be compiled to finance new measures, she said.

Meanwhile, she said, the top priority is "steadfast implementation" of the second supplementary budget just enacted by the Diet to fund the 6.15 trillion yen package launched in September. Additional measures will be "extreme emergency actions and not comprehensive ones," she said.

Fujii Denies Early Release of Stimulus Package

OW2112034093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0228 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii denied reports Tuesday that the government will unveil a new set of economic stimulus measures within this week. But he said Fujii and other economic ministers agreed to hold consultations "urgently" to discuss ways to turn around the economy. [sentence as received]

Speaking before a press conference after the day's cabinet meeting, Fujii said he has not heard of any so-called "package" being worked out for early release, as reported by newspapers.

Fujii said the accord on early discussions on Japan's economic situation came at his meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai, Home Affairs Minister Kanju Sato and Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura, which was held after the cabinet meeting.

Fujii confirmed that the government is working on ways to stimulate the economy. But these measures will not be announced as a package like the one in September, he said.

The measures under consideration will include steps to reinvigorate the securities market, including resumption of new public share offerings at market prices. Such public share issues have the important role of promoting equity financing, Fujii said.

He said the ministers agreed to hold an "in-depth" discussion on ways to secure financial sources to cover proposed income tax cuts. But he said he is not sure about when a framework for income tax cuts will be mapped out.

"An answer to the issue should be worked out urgently," he said, adding the matter is unavoidable for an early compilation of the national budget for fiscal 1994.

Fujii said the third supplementary budget is being considered for the sole purpose of getting the Japanese economy rolling again.

On the stock market tumble in Monday's Tokyo trading, Fujii said the Finance Ministry will continue to watch developments "with a great attention."

The 225-issue Nikkei stock average plunged 647.67 points Monday, its largest single-day loss of the year. It slipped another 82.81 points Tuesday morning to end the morning session at 17,321.43.

Hosokawa Plans Forum on Stimulating Economy

OW2112024393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0207 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Tuesday [21 December] directed cabinet members in charge of economic affairs to form a special forum to discuss proposed economic stimulative steps and budgetary matters.

Hosokawa unveiled the plan when he met the economic ministers after a regular meeting of the cabinet earlier in the day. He said the proposed forum will focus on the new economic pump-priming measures, which are expected to necessitate a third supplementary budget this fiscal year.

The forum will also review the composition of the budget for the new financial year starting April, the crafting of which will be delayed until early next year.

North Korea

KCNA Notes Return of 34 More U.S. Remains

SK2112050093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 21 Dec 93

["Remains of American Soldiers Transferred"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Panmunjom, December 21 (KCNA)—The remains of 34 U.S. soldiers killed in the northern half of Korea during the last Korean war (June 1950-July 1953) were transferred to the U.S. side at Panmunjom today under the "Agreement on the Remains Issue" adopted and effectuated between the DPRK and U.S. militaries on August 24 thanks to the peaceful and humanitarian measure of the DPRK Government.

The remains included Virgil B. Adkins (military number US 52188840), Howard Beard Jr. (military number US 55197372), David E. Pursley (military number US 56132860) and Acustim Alvarez (military number RA 19243784) as well as over 100 pieces of 35 items such as accessories of a wireless set without the number, a cross, a wristlace and a finger ring.

Since the adoption of the agreement, the DPRK side has transferred to the U.S. side the remains of 131 American soldiers and 440 pieces of 69 items on four occasions.

Since 1990, the remains of 194 American soldiers have been transferred to the U.S. side on nine occasions.

'World Public' Said Urging End to U.S. Pressure

SK2112111393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 21 (KCNA)—The world public is urging the United States to stop putting pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and come out to talks with it sincerely.

Baguma Isoke, member of the Executive Committee of the National Resistance Council of Uganda and chairman of the Ugandan National Committee for the Study of the Chuche Idea, published a statement on December 11. He said:

"The United States is clamouring about the fictitious 'nuclear development' of the DPRK, while closing its eyes to Israel, Japan and South Korea. This is aimed at isolating the DPRK and stifling socialism."

"The United States must come out to negotiations with the DPRK in accordance with the principles agreed upon in the DPRK-U.S. joint statement and the South Korean authorities must discontinue such shameful acts as entreating outside forces to do harm to fellow countrymen and take the stand of national independence," he urged.

Jose Fanequico, executive secretary of the Mozambican Committee for Friendship with the People of the DPRK, said the U.S. moves to stifle Korean-style socialist system under the pretext of the DPRK's "nuclear development" was a fantastic daydream.

"The United States must renounce its hostile policy toward Korea, unconditionally accept the formula of package solution proposed by the DPRK and come out to the talks with sincerity, instead of resorting to the old method of threat and pressure, a despicable method," he stressed.

The Kazakh paper RESPUBLIKA December 4 held that the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula could be solved only through talks. The Vietnamese paper NHAN DAN December 11 said none of the Asian countries actually wanted to see sanctions taken against Korea at the request of the United States.

KCNA Reports Cilreco Statement on U.S. Talks

SK2112042493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0404 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 20 (KCNA)—The International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea [Cilreco] in a statement on December 6 urged the United States to renounce its policy of pressure and threat against the DPRK and come out to DPRK-U.S. talks for a solution of the nuclear problem with an honest and sincere attitude.

The statement said the U.S. policy of pressure and threat against the DPRK is not only creating artificial difficulties in the way of negotiation for a solution of the nuclear problem but also poses a grave menace to peace and security in Korea and Asia and, furthermore, in the rest of the world.

It said:

The United States must know clearly that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not such a country as would concede supreme interests of the nation or yield, and draw a serious lesson from its past policy of strength towards the Korean peninsula in the past.

The solution of the nuclear problem entirely depends on the U.S. attitude.

The international liaison committee resolutely denounces the irresponsible attitude of the United States which is creating artificial difficulties in the way of efforts of the DPRK which is showing its good will even by suspending the effectuation of its decision on the withdrawal from the NPT.

Russian Journal on 'Unreasonable' U.S. Pressure

SK2012105293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 20 (KCNA)—The Russian paper ISTOKI No. 12 carried an article by doctor of history B. Janegin exposing the unreasonable nature of the U.S. pressure upon the DPRK.

The author of the article wrote that the campaign launched by the United States and its allies claiming that Pyongyang is developing "nuclear arms" is extremely aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula, compelling the DPRK to take a measure for increasing the defence capabilities of the country.

He wrote:

The DPRK's entry into the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was intended to get the United States to withdraw all its nuclear (?arms) from South Korea, dismantle its nuclear bases and discontinue its nuclear threat and military (?pressure) against it.

But it could not help protect the DPRK from nuclear threat.

In addition, the "nuclear problem" attached by the United States, South Korea and Japan to relations with the DPRK has rendered the normal course between Pyongyang and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] more complicated, foiled the inter-Korean dialogue, laid an essential obstacle to the solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula and led the situation to an acute phase of international crisis.

The U.S. side has not taken any step for the implementation of the principles of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement made public at the end of the second round of DPRK-U.S. talks, but is delaying the third round of talks, setting it as a precondition that Pyongyang should accept the unreasonable demand of the IAEA.

If the U.S. and its allies and international bodies intend to solve the problem by means of strength, the paper warned, the crisis of the Korean peninsula now on the point of explosion will assume an acute phase.

Russian Paper IZVESTIYA Lauds Kim Chong-il

SK2112105293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Moscow, December 19 (KCNA)—The Russian weekly paper PATRIOT No. 50 carried an article headlined "People Hold Comrade Kim Chong-il in High Esteem as Their Leader" by Ivan Loboda, a former journalist of IZVESTIYA.

The paper says Comrade Kim Chong-il, a faithful son of the Korean people, is steadfast and strong in principle and represents the Korean people's socialist aspiration and determination. This is what the enemies of socialism are afraid of, adds the paper, and continues:

They also feel fear because the country which is led by Comrade Kim Il-song and has been guided by Comrade Kim Chong-il over the past scores of years has turned into a reliable bulwark of socialism on the earth in nearly half a century. The imperialists and all hues of renegades, their stooges, are afraid of the influence of socialist Korea of hundreds of millions of people of the world.

The paper goes on:

History commissioned Comrade Kim Chong-il to play a great role. But it does not mean a heavy responsibility confined to the destiny of his country.

Pyongyang has become the centre of unity of the world's socialist forces today.

The Pyongyang declaration already signed by 200 political parties of the world is exerting an increasing influence on mankind.

All those with eyes see how the socialist forces are shaking off the shock given them by the renegades' betrayal and how rapidly they are growing.

Comrade Kim Chong-il is not a mere supporter but the heir to the cause pioneered by Comrade Kim Il-song, the paper notes, and continues:

He has creatively developed theories on communism in conformity with new circumstances created by social development and scientific achievements of society including those of the Korean people, one of the oldest civilization.

So Kimilsongism as science is unthinkable apart from Comrade Kim Chong-il, the successor to it.

Comrade Kim Chong-il has, from the beginning, attached great significance to ideological education and modelling the whole society on the chuche idea.

Many of his works deal with the question of thought, the leading role of the Workers' Party of Korea in ideological work.

As for these works, their contents, they are a telling blow to all the reactionary forces which disguise themselves with hypocratic slogans.

The validity of his assessment and prediction in those works has been proved in the whole course of the development not only of the DPRK but also of other countries.

Comrade Kim Chong-il is convinced that socialism has enormous potentiality and it can build a most righteous society desired by excellent thinkers of mankind.

His works indicate comprehensively and clearly what should be done at the present stage and what can be done with the present forces.

The leader of the Korean people is a man of resolute will who does not make a concession in the matters of principles, the matters decisive of the destiny of the nation and the victory of socialism.

Wisdom and insight in quick and correct analysis of the situation, selection of men, assessment of each man and his assignment to a post suitable to his ability—this is his characteristic features.

He is always simple and humble, though he enjoys a high reputation among the people and is held in high esteem in the DPRK, and is very kindly to his comrades and working people but merciless and uncompromising to the enemy.

He applies the same moral standard to himself and ordinary people. He thinks that no privilege or exception is allowed to any one in regard to morality.

His theories and practice based on the great chuche idea are highly estimated and acknowledged in the international communist movement.

People look up to him as a steadfast and independent, true communist leader who solves the most revolutionary of all tasks facing the world's revolutionaries at present.

Comrade Kim Chong-il is the hope not only of the Korean people but also of all the progressive people on the globe.

'Bumper Crops' Compared With South's 'Failure'

SK2112043993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0410 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 20 (KCNA)—Bumper crops have been reaped in the plain and mountainous areas of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Grain harvest in South Hwanghae Province, a plain area on the west coast, showed an increase of hundreds of thousands of tons above last year. Grain output was boosted by 20,000-30,000 tons each in Sinchon, Chaeryong, Sinwon and many other counties and by tens of thousands of tons in the Yonbaek plain near from the Military Demarcation Line.

The great leader President Kim Il-song met officials of the agricultural domain in South Hwanghae Province in March this year and clearly indicated the main orientation and way of agricultural development in the province. Giving on-the-spot guidance to cooperative farms of Yonan, Paechon and other counties in the Province in August, he expressed deep satisfaction over the crops ruling good, aquainting himself with the number of ears per pyong and the number of grains per ear.

Immensely inspired by the on-the-spot guidance of the great leader, the agricultural working people in the Province brought a bumper harvest rare to be seen by doing the farm work on a scientific and technical basis as demanded by the chuche method of farming even under unfavourable weather conditions. The meetings for account settlement and income distribution held in the rural villages there are overflowing with pride and joy at the bountiful harvest.

But farmers are crying over the worst crops in South Korea linked with the North by the same vein.

Farmers in the plain areas of North Cholla Province including Kimje and Puan deplored a that empty husks [as received] turned out to be more than had been estimated in thrashing and so the yield is likely to go down in cleaning.

An agricultural official in North Kyongsang Province said that the rice output in the province had been estimated to be 20 percent lower than last year's, but the yield is expected to drop by 30 percent because the rice grain is not so solid as had been expected.

It is inevitable that the rice output will fall by 20-30 percent, even by 50 percent, in the Honam plain which has been called a granary.

South Korean newspapers conveyed news of the crop failure in the plain areas under the titles "too many empty husks of rice" and "straw farming, not rice farming".

KCNA Notes South Koreans' Remarks on Tomb

SK2012111993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 20 Dec 93

["Disinterment of Tomb of Tangun, Founder of Korean Nation, is Great Auspicious Event in National History"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 20 (KCNA)—South Korean people said that disinterment of the tomb of Tangun in the northern half of Korea exalts the pride of a homogeneous nation, according to radio Voice of National Salvation from Seoul.

Kim Chol-su residing in Chongro District, Seoul said:

"It has been convincingly proved by historians of the North that Tangun who had been known as a legendary man, a mythical character, is a man who actually existed, father of our nation and founder of old Korea. This is a national historic discovery and great auspicious event which demonstrated to the whole world that our nation is a homogeneous nation of Tangun lineage and a resourceful and great nation which has developed since it set up old Korea 5,000 years ago. I would like to go now to see the tomb of Tangun."

Taejonggyo believer Yi Sang-o said:

"The verification of Tangun myth as Tangun actual story by historians of the North is a precious wealth in establishing national history from a new angle and exalting the soul and resourcefulness of the nation."

"The verification of Tangun as an actual man is the discovery of the father of Taejonggyo, the national traditional religion worshipping Tangun. I would like to go to Pyongyang to pay homage to the tomb of Tangun."

He said that to achieve this wish the country should be reunified at an early date.

A certain Choe, fourth year student of Seoul National University, said:

"Our nation, a descendant of Tangun, has failed to achieve reunification for half a century after it was divided by foreign forces in the middle of the 20th century and the division must no longer be continued."

"Our 70 million fellow countrymen, bearing in mind the greatness of our nation, should reunify the country at an early date by promoting great national unity, irrespective of ideology, religious belief and residence."

"Since Pyongyang is a cradle of our nation and was capital of Tangun Korea, an independent reunified state with Pyongyang as its capital should be built."

Vice President Meets Chinese Delegation

SK2012115293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 20 (KCNA)—DPRK Vice-president Yi Chong-ok met with a delegation of the all-China Federation of Trade Unions headed by its Vice-President Li Qisheng at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

He had a talk with the guests in a friendly atmosphere.

Japanese Said To Urge Normalization of Ties

SK2112111893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 21 (KCNA)—Japanese figures are calling for the promotion of the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations, Tokyo-based KNS reported.

The rector of Keiai Junior College in Chiba, Masanori Kikuchi, said that the new Japanese Government must not only contribute to the peaceful reunification of Korea but also examine the issue of normalizing Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

"It is important for the new government to look squarely at Korea advancing along an independent road of socialist development, refrain from interfering in its internal affairs and recognize it," he added.

A writer and producer Miki Zemusu said many Japanese people hoped for the normalization of diplomatic relations with the DPRK.

Shinichi Arai, a professor of Surugatai University and the representative of the centre of data on Japan's responsibility for the war, said that the problem of compensation was a matter to be further specified by the Japanese Government and that lip-service was not enough for apology and it needed a thoroughgoing investigation and punishment.

The secretary general of the Kanagawa Japan-Korea Women's Conference, Reiko Hirose, and its other representatives and socialist member of the House of Councillors Sumiko Shimizu, handed a letter of request to the Foreign Ministry on December 3 on behalf of the representatives and strongly urged the government authorities to be more sincere in Japan-DPRK negotiations.

Condemnation of Japan's 'Crimes' Said 'Brisk'

SK2112105993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 21 (KCNA)—The movement for condemning the past crimes of the Japanese imperialists has been brisk worldwide this year.

Statements, protests and letters adopted at international conferences, meetings and other functions and by political parties, organizations and people of various social strata of many countries and foreign media branded the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" faked up by the Japanese imperialists in 1905 as the biggest forgery ever in world history.

The participants in the Pyongyang International Forum on Japan's Postwar Settlement Issues and the International Symposium on the Japanese Imperialists' Colonial Rule Over Korea which was held in Tokyo declared that legislation on "the rule over Korea" by Japan which had been enacted without international legal basis and validity was devoid of legality and it was a military occupation by a foreign country in view of international law.

According to a report submitted by the commission of international fellowship for reconciliation on human rights in Geneva, the International Law Committee, a permanent committee of the United Nations, said in a report to the United Nations in 1963 that the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" was a typical example of "treaties" fabricated by coercion and, therefore, it was invalid.

The Japanese imperialists' crimes in the case of "comfort women for the Army" and the forcible drafting of Koreans have also been denounced worldwide.

The speakers at the 49th meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the meeting of working groups of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on modern-type slaves, the international public hearing on sex slavery forced by the Japanese Army, etc. said that during their occupation of Korea, the Japanese imperialists took away nearly 200,000 Korean women as "comfort women for the Army," forcibly drafted more than six million young and middle-aged people from Korea for military services and labour and overdrove them, massacred more than one million people and took a fabulous amount of resources and valuable cultural wealth to Japan.

The statement adopted at the Asian Forum of the World Human Rights Conference on war crimes of Japan in military sex slavery and unsettled issue of the "comfort women" in Asia called for establishing such an effective institutional mechanism as a permanent international criminal court so that the United Nations may investigate into the crimes of sex slavery by military and punish the criminals.

The 45th meeting of the United Nations subcommittee on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities decided to make the first U.N. investigation into the issue of the "comfort women" drafted to the old Japanese Army and the forcible drafting of Koreans by old Japan.

Meeting on Korean Affairs Held in Tokyo

SK2012112993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, December 17 (KNS-KCNA)—A meeting for thinking of the Korean affairs was held in Tokyo on December 15.

Prof. Kinhide Mushakoji of Meijigakuin University gave a lecture on the subject "The International Situation Surrounding the Korean Peninsula" and social-democratic member of the House of Councillors Sumiko Shimizu on the subject "On Japan's Postwar Settlement Issues."

Speaking at the meeting, Hiroshi Wakabayashi, general secretary of the Japan Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, said that everybody should actively contribute to the peace of Korea and its reunification with a correct understanding of the situation surrounding the Korean peninsula.

Meeting Held on Cuban Revolution Anniversary

SK2112053193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 21 (KCNA)—A solidarity meeting was held Monday at the Central Youth Hall on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the victory in the Cuban revolution.

Present there were Vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea and Vice-chairman of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee Choe Hyon-tok, and other officials concerned.

Invited were Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega, embassy officials and other Cuban guests.

Speeches were exchanged at the meeting.

An art performance was given at the meeting held in a friendly atmosphere.

Secretary Hwang Meets New Algerian Ambassador

SK2112111993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 21 (KCNA)—Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, met and conversed with new Algerian Ambassador to Korea Hanafi Mussedik when the latter paid a courtesy call on him today.

SPA Chairman Meets New Envoy

SK2012114393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 20 (KCNA)—Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] Yang Hyong-sop today met and conversed with newly-appointed Algerian Ambassador to Korea Hanafi Oussedik who paid a courtesy call on him at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Ecuadoran Figure Calls Kim Chong-il 'Illustrious'

SK2112110093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 21 (KCNA)—"The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is an illustrious leader of the cause of rebuilding socialism at the present time," said Alba Chavez De Alvarado, member of the "International Kim Il-song Prize" Council, member of parliament and vice-president of Guyaquil University of Ecuador.

He said the immortal classical work of Comrade Kim Chong-il "On the Fundamentals of Revolutionary Party Building" was an encyclopedic work which clearly indicated the orientation and way of accomplishing the cause of rebuilding socialism on the basis of the historical lessons drawn from the building of a ruling party under socialism.

Noting that it was an important historical task now to indicate the way of rebuilding a new revolutionary party, he said this important question had been successfully solved by Comrade Kim Chong-il, the master of the great chuche idea.

He further said:

"Pointing out that the collapse of the socialist system in different countries was a heavy loss in the accomplishment of the popular masses' cause of independence, Comrade Kim Chong-il expressed the firm belief that if lessons were drawn from this setback and a revolutionary way of party building was paved independently and creatively, it would be possible to build a more revolutionary and militant party."

He called on all the workers' and communist parties to dynamically struggle for the accomplishment of the cause of rebuilding socialism on the basis of the work "on the fundamentals of revolutionary party building."

World 'Public Circles' Support Unity Proposal

SK2112111293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 21 (KCNA)—World political and public circles expressed full support and solidarity for the "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" set forth by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

In solidarity messages and letters to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Seychelles President France Albert Rene, Zimbabwean President Robert G. Mugabe, General Secretary of "New Alternative" of Venezuela Guillermo Garcia Ponce and other party and state leaders, over 200 in all, noted the 10-point programme was a fair and aboveboard one acceptable to anyone who is Korean.

An unquestioned support to the programme was expressed in statements, press statements, appeals, meetings, signature campaigns by foreign political parties, organizations, political and public figures and peoples of various strata including the Communist Party of Austria, the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Peru and the first vice-chairman of the National Assembly of Nicaragua.

Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania Adam Sapi Mkwawa said the 10-point programme is a most fair formula of reunification reflecting the unanimous demand and will of the entire Korean people.

Movements for supporting the programme were conducted by the international liaison committee for reunification and peace in Korea, the African regional committee of friendship and solidarity with the Korean people, the Asian regional committee to support Korea's reunification and other regional committees more than 320 solidarity organizations in 100 countries and international organizations.

President Kim Il-song's "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" was widely reported by some 1,000 news media of 110 countries, which said the 10-point programme is powerfully arousing the entire Korean people in the struggle to accelerate national reunification.

Former Vice Premier Moved to Factory Manager

OW2112124493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1223 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 KYODO—Former North Korean Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon is now the manager of a chemical factory in the city of Hamhung in South Hamgyong Province, a North Korean source in the truce village of Panmunjom said Tuesday [21 December].

It is the first report of Kim's whereabouts since Kim's dismissal from the vice premiership and chairmanship of the State Planning Commission at the Central Committee meeting of the Korean Workers' Party earlier this month. But the North Korean source denied the move represents a demotion. "The post Kim has assumed is very important," the source said. "The chemical factory is very important."

Kim is certain to have been fired from his post as an alternate member of the party's Politbureau, political analysts in Seoul said.

The analysts said Kim, who is a relative of President Kim Il-song, was "demoted" from the post of vice premier due to the failure of his economic policies.

The North Korean leadership acknowledged in the Supreme People's Assembly session earlier this month that Pyongyang could not achieve targets set for its 1987-1993 economic plan.

Anniversary of Kim Il-song Guidance Celebrated

SK2112054693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 21 (KCNA)—A meeting celebrating the 30th anniversary of the on-the-spot guidance of the great leader President Kim Il-song to the Academy of Agricultural Science was held Monday on the spot.

President of the Academy of Agricultural Science Yi Yong-kyun in his report recalled that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song during his visit to the Academy of Agricultural Science on December 21, 1963, saw crop seeds, data and veterinary medicines, clearly indicated the detailed orientation and ways of developing agricultural science from a chuche-based stand, and implanted in the minds of the officials and scientists the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle that there is nothing impossible if investment in scientific research increased and they were determined and braced themselves up.

Noting that the method of crop cultivation should be improved to satisfactorily solve the food problem of the people, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song expounded the question of lifting the utility rate of fields as area under cultivation is limited, the question of overcoming seasonal limitation in vegetable production, the question of supplying animal feed to develop stockbreeding and other matters of study to which the scientists should direct efforts and ways for their solution, the reporter said.

He pointed out that the agro-scientists contributed to remarkably boosting agricultural production by producing hundreds of new crop seeds upholding the teachings given on the spot by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

He said that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il personally visited many agro-scientific research centres and has wisely led the research work in agriculture.

He stressed that it is entirely thanks to the wise guidance and deep care of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il that the Academy of Agricultural Science could make no small scientific and technical contributions to realizing the "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country".

The meeting was attended by Secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], WPK [Workers' Party of Korea] So Kwan-hui.

Kim Chong-il Praises Army-People Unity

SK2112051993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 21 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to Tonghung-tong, Central District, Pyongyang, Kumsok-ri, Hwangju County, North Hwanghae Province, Yi Unkum, an instructor at the state price-setting commission, Yun Kyong-su, a disabled soldier in Kyojuri, Changdo County, Kangwon Province, and other units and working people who have distinguished themselves in displaying the traditional beautiful traits of army-people unity.

They went to see People's Army soldiers who are defending the posts of the motherland as firm as an iron wall and encourage them in their combat-political training, deepening feelings of kinship.

The speakers at the thanks-conveying meetings said they would bring into fuller bloom the traditional beautiful traits of army-people unity by valuing and assisting with all sincerity the soldiers of supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il in the future, too, and contribute to defending to the end and exalting the Korean-style socialist system.

Symposium Held on Kim Chong-il's Works

SK2112054193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 21 (KCNA)—A national symposium on the 1st anniversary of the publication of "Let Us Bring Into Fuller Play the Advantages of Our People's Power", a classical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, was held in Pyongyang Monday.

The symposium was attended by Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and Vice- president Pak Song-chol and other officials concerned.

Noting that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in the work gave the scientific exposition of the essence of power to develop in depth the theory of building chuche-type power, the speakers at the symposium said he systematized in an all-round way, with fresh theory and propositions, all the questions arising in the building of power including the historic mission and general tasks of people's power, the factors defining its consolidation and vitality, fundamental ways of enhancing its function and role and basic principles of its building.

They pointed out that the guiding idea, socio-political foundations and the leader's guidance are the major factors of the consolidation and vitality of socialist government and among them the leader's guidance is the decisive one.

They said the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, with boundless love and the spirit of devoted service for the people, has defined it as a basic principle of the building of power to build people's power in compliance with the constantly growing demand of the masses for independence and fully indicated concrete ways to that end, thus showing a bright way for strengthening and developing the government of Korea into a genuine power of the people always serving the people with the people as its master.

They recalled that he formulated the function of unified guidance of society and the function of people's democratic dictatorship as the main and important functions of people's power and gave comprehensive answers as to the contents of unified guidance over politics, economy, culture, military, etc. and ways for its strengthening and of general questions arising in enhancing the functions and role of the power.

They stressed that the idea of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong- il on fortifying people's power and enhancing its functions and role, thereby smashing the moves of the imperialists and reactionaries against socialism and resolutely defending Korean-style socialism, serves as a banner leading the cause of independence of the Korean people, the cause of chuche, along a road of victory and glory.

Workers' Union Pledges Loyalty to Kim Chong-il

SK2112053893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 21 (KCNA)—A national meeting of officials of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea [UAWPK] was held here Monday to vow their loyalty in the efforts to accomplish the cause of socialism under the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the UAWPK Choe Song-suk made a report at the meeting, which was followed by speeches.

The reporter and speakers said Comrade Kim Chong-il with both literary and military accomplishments, loyalty and filial piety has exalted the immortal chuche idea as a great guideline in the era of independence with his extraordinary spirit of inquiry and energetic ideological and theoretical activities, strengthened and developed the Workers' Party of Korea into a guide of the socialist cause and effected a new revolutionary upsurge in all fields of politics, economy, culture and military of the country and brought a heyday of national development and prosperity to this land.

It is the general duty and task of the Union of Agricultural Working people to remain loyal and filial to Comrade Kim Chong-il and dye the whole union in his idea, they said. They underscored the need to bring the greatness of the party home to the unionists and train all of them as true loyalists and devoted filial sons and daughters who absolutely revere the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

Daily Lauds Kim Chong-il's 'Great' Leadership

SK1812145493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Unattributed talk: "The Great Leadership of Brilliantly Inheriting and Consummating the Socialist Cause"]

[Text] In the great revolution, there is a tested leadership in the great leader [yongdoja] who is leading the socialist cause at the forefront.

Today the chuche socialist cause, which has taken root at Mt. Paektu, has been vigorously moving forward by performing brilliant feats and winning a great victory under the tested leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great leader [yongdoja] who is brilliantly and victoriously leading a struggle to inherit and consummate the chuche socialist cause with his extraordinary leadership ability.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Comrade Kim Chong-il is wisely leading the revolution and construction with his extraordinary leadership ability.

The tested leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] is a decisive guarantee for the brilliant inheritance and consummation of the socialist cause. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has gained an immortal achievement in the historic course of brilliantly inheriting and consummating the socialist cause.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il presented, first of all, a chuche-oriented party-building policy to model the entire party after the chuche idea and, by brilliantly implementing it, he strengthened and developed our party into a tested guide for the socialist cause.

The party is the staff of the revolution, as well as a guiding force of a society. The success of the revolutionary struggle and the construction work is totally dependent upon the party's leadership-oriented role.

The extraordinary feature of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership lies in the fact that he has strongly built an organizational and ideological basis or a leadership system to inherit and consummate the socialist cause by regarding it as a basis to strengthen the party and to enhance its leadership-oriented role all the time in leading the revolution and construction.

The dear comrade leader presented a chuche-oriented or original party-building policy of modeling the entire party after the chuche idea and brilliantly implemented it. Modeling the entire party after the chuche idea is a new higher level in the work of establishing the party's unitary ideological system, as well as a precondition for modeling the whole society after the chuche idea.

Guaranteeing the uniformity of idea and leadership is a basic principle for strongly building the party in organizationally or ideologically and for consolidating its unity and cohesion as firm as a rock.

The dear comrade leader has persistently carried out a struggle to permeate the entire party with ideology based on the chuche idea by firmly regarding it as the basic line of party building.

In the rewarding struggle to realize the modeling of the entire party membership on the chuche idea, the work to establish the party's monolithic ideological system has been further deepened, filling the party with the chuche idea and strengthening in every way the ideological and volitional unity of the party ranks based on it. Today our party has the excellent appearance as the chuche revolutionary party in all aspects, from its nature and ideological system to the unity, organization, and discipline of its ranks, its work method, work style, and relations with the masses. Therefore, we can boast with confidence that our party has now been strengthened and developed to be a militant and refined political organization of leadership capable of inheriting and completing the cause of our-style socialism to the end.

In leading the struggle to inherit and complete the cause of socialism, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has brought forth a great historic change, turning the entire society into a strong main force firmly united as a sociopolitical living organism and remaking nature and society with the might of chuche. The leadership of the leader, who leads the revolution and construction, is intensively expressed by his competence and skillful organizational ability in bringing the creativity of the popular masses, the main force of the revolution, into full play. The popular masses have inexhaustible strength. The success of the revolution depends on how the inexhaustible strength of the popular masses is brought into full play.

In order for the popular masses to give full play to their strength, they have to become conscious, organized, and ideologically roused. This can be carried out only by the revolutionary party, and this function and activity of the party is ensured by the refined leadership of the leader who has extraordinary competence and ability.

It is the leadership principle, which the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il consistently maintains, that we should adhere to the basic principle of strengthening the main force and continuously enhancing its role in socialist construction.

The dear comrade leader not only brought forth a fundamental change in the party work with his extraordinary energy and leadership, but he put forth an original policy on ideological theory. Upholding the banner of ideological theory, he ensured that priority is given to the ideological indoctrination work and man-remaking work. By so doing, he ensured that all party members and working people arm themselves firmly with our party's revolutionary ideology and carry out their responsibility and role as masters of the revolution and construction.

Because they have the refined leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, our people have achieved marvelous and shining success of the century in the struggle to remake nature, society, and man as demanded by the chuche. Of all the victories and successes they have attained in the stirring days of inheriting and developing our-style socialism, our people are particularly proud of the fact that the entire society has formed a great revolutionary family upholding the great leader [yongdoja] as a parent. Around our party today are the people, who are boundlessly loyal to their leader [yongdoja] and devote themselves to upholding the leader's cause, firmly united in terms of ideology, volition, morality, and fidelity. They form one sociopolitical living organism around the leader [suryong].

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, while leading the struggle to inherit and complete the cause of socialism, brought forth a new upturn in building the revolutionary armed forces, thus providing a powerful military strength of socialism. The cause of socialism advances and triumphs in the fierce confrontation with the imperialists and all sorts of reactionaries. Therefore, the cause of socialism is dependably assured by our own strong revolutionary armed forces.

The cause of continuously strengthening and developing the revolutionary armed forces in our country is being brilliantly realized by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Our supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, with his scientific insight into the position and role of building the revolutionary armed forces in inheriting and completing the cause of socialism, put forth imbuing the entire army with the chuche idea as the fundamental line for building the revolutionary armed forces, and exercised his wise leadership so that this line can be brilliantly realized.

Our supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il turned the entire ranks into the iron-strong ranks of the chuche-type revolutionary soldiers according to the line of modeling the entire Army on the chuche idea. Building strong modern defense industry, he ensured that the combat capability and arms and equipment of the People's Army are strengthened continuously. At the same time, our People's Army embodied chuche warfare in military activities and thoroughly established the chuche system and method of commanding the Army by which the entire Army moves as one person, thus enabling itself to honorably maintain its nature and mission as chuche revolutionary armed forces.

Our supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, who put forth imbuing the entire Army with the chuche idea as the basic line of building our revolutionary armed forces, put forth numerous independent methods of warfare, strategy, and tactics, and exercised his wise leadership so that they can be brilliantly embodied. Our comrade supreme commander put forth the idea of Army-people harmony as one of the important principles for Army building and for strengthening and developing the Army, and exercised his wise leadership so that the Army can faithfully serve the people and achieve perfect harmony with the people.

Thanks to the refined leadership of our supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, our People's Army has grown to be the militant combat ranks that wage the loyal, devoted struggle for the party and the revolution and to be the invincible strong Army equipped with powerful offensive and defensive means. Thus, the all-people defense system, with the People's Army in its core, have been firmly built in our country.

Our People's Army, which has been strengthened to be invincible revolutionary armed forces under the wise leadership of our supreme commander Comrade Kim

Chong-il, crushed the imperialists' antisocialist, anti-Republic maneuvers at every step of their way and are dependably defending the chuche socialist cause. The immortal achievements made by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in leading the struggle to inherit and complete the chuche socialist cause originate from his refined leadership. The leadership art which the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il originally created and demonstrated through his personal practical example is the encyclopedia of revolutionary leadership art which gives comprehensive answers to all the questions arising in leading the socialist cause along the ever-victorious course—from the method of planning, organizing, and developing work to rousing broad masses to effect continuous upsurge in the revolution and construction.

The leadership traits of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who always stands at the head of the socialist cause and creatively solves all problems in conformity with the demands of our revolution and in the interest of our people, are really veteran and extraordinary. The unequalled boldness with which he puts forward the high target unimaginable under ordinary circumstances and pushes it forward swiftly, the extraordinary creativity with which he solves all problems innovatively irrespective of the existing management method and old ways, the determination and stubbornness with which he finishes to the end the work he decides and commits himself to mobilizing all forces—these are the leadership traits and is the character of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as an outstanding leadership artist. Because he has these extraordinary leadership traits, the dear comrade leader is carrying out most successfully the task of the times for inheriting and completing the cause of socialism that no one has been able to solve yet.

Upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il—who is brilliantly inheriting and completing the chuche socialist cause—as the great leader [yongdoja] of the Korean revolution is our people's greatest glory and happiness. Our people will share life, death, and destiny with the leader [yongdoja] with the absolute idea of reverence toward and boundless loyalty to the great leader [yongdoja] and brilliantly inherit and complete the cause of our-style socialism, no matter what winds may blow and no matter what stern trial overtakes them.

Symposium Discusses Kim Chong-il's 'Greatness'

SK2012104393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] A central research discussion meeting [chungang yongu toronhoe] to study and master the ideology and theory elucidated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on succeeding and consummating the socialist cause and the greatness of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was held yesterday [16 December] [place indistinct].

The discussion meeting was attended by Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president; Comrade Kim Ki-nam, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; functionaries concerned; party functionaries at central organs and in Pyongyang city; teachers and researchers from party cadre training organs and from the science, education, and press and publications fields; reporters; and editors.

At the discussion meeting, Pak In-kun, doctor and director of a research institute under the Academy of Social Sciences; Kim Chang-hwan, associate doctor and head of a department at Kim Il-song University; Chong Kwan-yong, doctor, meritorious reporter, and editor of NODONG SINMUN; Pak Song-nok, dean of a faculty at the Political University under the Ministry of Public Security, associate professor, and associate doctor; Chon Yong-sok, head of a department at the University of International Affairs and doctor; and Kim Son-yang, vice president of the WPK Publication House, discussed the profound contents and significance of the ideology and theory on succeeding and consummating the socialist cause elucidated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the greatness of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is brilliantly succeeding and consummating the socialist cause of chuche.

The debaters referred to the fact that recently the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has scientifically elucidated the importance of the question of succeeding leadership in the accomplishment of the socialist cause and expounded the infinitely precious and profound ideology and theory that the firm guarantee for succeeding and consummating our socialist cause, the chuche revolutionary cause, lies in upholding with loyalty the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The firm guarantee for succeeding and consummating the socialist cause lies precisely in properly upholding Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership.

The debaters said that the ideologies and theories expounded by the great leader [widaehan syryong] are an immortal banner which illuminates the brilliant road ahead for the victorious advance and consummation of the chuche revolutionary cause and explained the basis for this. They said: It is, first of all, because these ideologies and theories extensively elucidate the greatness of the dear comrade leader and more firmly implant among our party and people the firm faith and will that, when they uphold and follow his leadership with loyalty, the victory of the chuche revolutionary cause is certain.

They stressed: These ideology and theory—which put primary emphasis on the idea on continuously strengthening the singlehearted unity of the party and the revolutionary ranks with the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the center into invincible one—have provided a firm foundation for the final consummation of the chuche revolutionary cause.

Saying that the leader [yongdoja] trusts the people and infinitely loves them, and the people boundlessly believe in and follow the leader [yongdoja] and firmly unite around the party and the leader [suryong] with loyalty and that herein lies the source of superiority of socialism of our own style and its invincibility, they stressed that when we continue to strengthen this singlehearted unity we can consummate the socialist cause generation after generation.

They also said that the idealogy and theory elucidated by the great leader [widaehan suryong] becoming the immortal banner illuminating the road for the consummation of the chuche revolutionary cause is also because the ideology and theory have given flawless answers to the question of inheriting loyalty to the leader [yongdoja] generation after generation.

They stressed that this ideology, which leads the entire party and all the people to be loyal to the dear comrade leader, is not only a most correct ideology based on the scientific analysis of the inevitable course [happopchikchok nojong] in the accomplishment of the socialist cause and the historic experience in the international communist movement. They continued to discuss the greatness of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is brilliantly succeeding and consummating the socialist cause, the chuche revolutionary cause.

The debaters unanimously said that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great ideologist and theorist, statesman, and military strategist who has both literary and military accomplishments and is the people's leader [yongdoja] infinitely faithful to the fatherland and the people.

The debaters said that the literary and military accomplishments that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has are precisely the extraordinary wisdom and leadership art of a statesman, the matchless courage and iron-like will of a military strategist, and the character and ability of the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] that have reached a loftiest plane in his noble loyalty and filial piety of upholding the leader [suryong], which no one has ever had.

Noting that it is an important problem to correctly solve the question of succeeding leadership as the socialist cause is to take on a long-term nature, the debaters said that the question of succeeding leadership in which the leader [chidoja] of a new generation succeeds and carries on the cause pioneered by the leader [suryong] and the question of character and ability of the successor [hugyeja] have been brilliantly solved in our party. They then stressed that the dear comrade leader is the great ideologist and theorist who has synthesized and systematized the chuche idea and developed and enriched it by waging ideological and theoretical activities with an extraordinary spirit of inquiry and energy and who is, thus, glorifying the chuche idea as the guiding ideology of the era of independence.

They said that through the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's classical works published in the sixties, his classical works published afterward, and a number of classical works published in recent years, including the classical works "Historic Lesson of Socialist Construction and Our Party's General Line," "On the Basic Problem for Building a Revolutionary Party," and "Hindrance of Socialism Cannot Be Tolerated" they feel his greatness keenly as the excellent ideologist and theorist and as great and outstanding writer.

The debaters said that the extraordinary nature of the ideological and theoretical features of Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has enjoyed absolute respect and confidence from our people, can be found in his thorough chuche-oriented viewpoint and creativity, ideological and theoretical wisdom and insight, and scientific foresightedness and stated that the revolutionary people of the world find the road of their victory from his ideology and theory.

They discussed the fact that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great genius who leads the revolution and construction through his outstanding organizational ability and mobilization ability and his extraordinary revolutionary driving force.

They stressed that what is important in the dear comrade leader's extraordinary ability and talent as a great statesman is that he has strengthened the party, which is the guiding force of the revolution, firmly deepened its organizational and ideological foundations, thoroughly established his leadership system, turned the whole society into the strong main force of the revolution which is firmly united as one social and political organism, and, thus, effected a historic change in remolding nature and society.

They then said that the unprecedented size of many functions, including the 13th festival of world youth and students and the festive functions marking the 40th anniversary of the war victory held in recent years, and their high-level organizational structures are one of the examples that show the organizational ability and talent of the dear comrade leader as a great statesman.

They also explained that the dear comrade leader is a great military strategist who has firmly guaranteed the socialist cause with the revolutionary armed forces with his matchless courage and iron-like will.

They said that the dear comrade leader has strengthened and developed the People's Army into the Army of the party and the Army of the revolution in accordance with the demands of modeling the entire Army after the chuche idea, has led the Army and the people to unite together with the ideology of great unity between the Army and the people, and has established a firm defense system by all the people and the whole country.

Daily Emphasizes Ideological Revolution

SK2012145593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 20 Dec 93

["NODONG SINMUN Calls For Accelerating Socialist Construction by Giving Definite Precedence to Ideological Revolution"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 20 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave highly important teachings at the 21st plenary meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] on effecting a new revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction by constantly keeping a tight hold on the ideological revolution. They were based on a scientific analysis of the socialist construction in Korea and the actual demands of the revolution.

NODONG SINMUN says this in an editorial today.

Noting that to vigorously carry on the ideological revolution is a vital work related to the destiny of socialism, the editorial says the ideological revolution is always the lifeline of socialist construction.

It goes on:

To push ahead with the ideological revolution is a consistent policy of the WPK. Only when the ideological revolution continues to be energetically conducted can the singlehearted unity of our revolutionary ranks be consolidated still further and a great revolutionary upswing be effected in socialist economic construction to fully display the invincible might and vitality of socialism of our style.

It is a realistic requirement of our revolution to more vigorously conduct the ideological revolution today.

We can display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle to a high degree, sweeping the hideous anti-socialist schemes of the imperialists and reactionaries by the fiery wind of chuche only when we intensify the ideological revolution and we can turn our country into a people's paradise by bringing a new turn in the development of agriculture and light industry and decisively increasing the production of exports only when we deepen the ideological revolution.

The banner of the ideological revolution is an ever-victorious banner which we must always uphold today and tomorrow, stresses the editorial.

NODONG SINMUN Stresses Self-Reliance

SK2012112593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 20 Dec 93

[KCNA headline indistinct]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 20 (KCNA)—Self-reliance is a steadfast revolutionary position to accomplish one's revolution with one's own forces and an independent spirit to build one's country with the efforts of one's own people and the domestic resources, says NODONG SINMUN today.

The paper stresses in a by-lined article:

Self-reliance is the traditional fighting spirit of our people and their inherent mode of revolution.

Self-reliance was a chuche-oriented revolutionary slogan put up by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song since he embarked on the road of revolution.

It was thanks to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work that the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters made at arsenals in forests weapons, ammunitions, powder and bombs, which people thought could be made only at modern munitions factories, to beat the enemy and fought for many years like immortals, solving the problems of food and clothing by their own efforts.

That was the secret how the anti-Japanese guerrilla army with no state rear or assistance of a regular army could win the fight with the Japanese imperialists armed to the teeth.

The indomitable revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work created during the anti-Japanese struggle served as a powerful motive force in the building of a new country after liberation and as the source of a great strength which enabled our people to defeat the formidable imperialist enemy in the hard-fought fatherland liberation war.

This spirit was given full play in the grand march of great Chollima upsurge in the postwar reconstruction on the ruins.

This spirit also served as the source of inexhaustible strength powerfully promoting the grand socialist march in the historic period of modelling the whole society on the chuche idea.

Our people have been able to push their way through the grim annals of revolution, giving full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance because they have trusted and followed the party and the leader singleheartedly with a firm revolutionary faith.

It is the grit and will of our people to believe that the road indicated by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il inevitably leads to victory and glory and under his leadership there is nothing impossible to do.

Our people will make continuous innovation and advance in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work that has been displayed in the whole course of our revolution, successfully implement the revolutionary economic strategy laid down by the party and powerfully demonstrate once again the dignity and invincible might of our socialism.

Fulfillment of Third Seven-Year Plan Praised

SK1912142893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0600 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Unattributed talk: "The Great Leadership and the Brilliant Fruition"]

[Text] The 21st plenary session of the Sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], which was opened and chaired by the great leader

Comrade Kim Il-song, summed up the fulfillment of the Third Seven-Year Plan and presented an immediate guideline for economic construction.

All party members and working people who received news about the 21st plenary session of the Sixth Central Committee of the party are full of boundless dignity and pride in a brilliant achievement gained by the wise leadership of the party and the leader.

A great advance in the national economic development during the Third Seven-Year Plan is a brilliant result of the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The Third Seven-Year Plan is a grand plan for the socialist construction that will bring about a significant turn in raising the people's standard of living and in strengthening the country's economic might.

The Third Seven-Year Plan was a grand economic construction plan, which opened a bright prospect of the future of our fatherland, as well as a great (?goal) that had effected a decisive turn in a struggle for the complete victory of socialism.

Our party clearly presented plans and policies to successfully fulfill the Third Seven-Year Plan and organized and mobilized all the people into an all-out march to reach a new economic construction goal under the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural.

The grand goal of the Third Seven-Year Plan and the party's policy for its realization vigorously encouraged all working people throughout the country to conduct their heroic struggles and to perform their feats and enabled them to effect a great upsurge in the socialist construction during the first period of the new long- term plan. During the Seven-Year Plan, however, our people could not but overcome the harsh trials and difficulties, which were unprecedented in history.

The complex and acute situations created internally or externally during the plan implementation became a grave challenge to implementing the Third Seven-Year Plan. The collapse of socialism in many countries, the anti-socialist offensive by the imperialist and reactionary forces throughout the world, and the worldwide economic upheavals greatly affected our revolution and construction. Also, they created a great obstacle to the socialist economic construction of our country.

Because of the aggravating aggressive maneuvers and desperate offensive by the imperialists and reactionaries against our Republic during the Third Seven-Year Plan, the situation on the Korean peninsula became more acute. They directed the spearheads of attack against our Republic and persistently maneuvered—politically, militarily, and economically—to isolate and suffocate [chilsik] our country and to crush our socialist cause when socialism collapsed in many countries throughout the world.

Under the situation in which a danger of a new war has been further increased on the Korean peninsula because of the imperialists' and reactionaries' maneuvers, we could not but convert many things from the economic field into the national defense in order to strengthen the defense capacity of our country.

Pushing ahead with a long-term plan, such as the Third Seven-Year Plan, which puts forward grand goals without giving it up under such circumstance, is not something that anyone can do. Doing it is like creating a miracle.

Our party, however, has made great progress in all fields of socialist construction during the Third Seven-Year Plan period by leading our people with its leadership and wisdom by turning misfortune into fortune and adversity into a favorable condition.

Our party's wise leadership, which has successfully winded up the Third Seven-Year Plan, lies in the fact, above all, that it has taken the revolutionary measures in appropriate time by coping with the rapidly changing situation on its own initiative, and valued the basic interest of our revolution and construction.

Entering the nineties, serious international events and a complicated situation took place and created great obstacles and difficulties to our socialist economic construction. With the collapse of many socialist countries and socialist markets of the world, long-term or short-term trade agreements signed with these countries were shattered, their implementation were all but stopped, and the traditional economic cooperation and trade exchange between our country and those countries were stalled.

Historic experiences show that it takes several years to settle this sort of situation. Our party, however, adjusted the speed of economic growth, which was estimated in the Third Seven-Year Economic Plan, reduced the economic scale, and put forward revolutionary policies to further complete the economic structure with a view to strengthening the nation's economic self-reliance so as to subsist by our own efforts under any circumstances.

Our party, in particular, directed strength to the light industry and to the production of consumer goods in order to further enhance the people's living standard. In the heavy industry field, our party gave priority to electric power and coal industry and saw to it that an overall development of the national economy is attained.

Our heroic working class and all working people, who are endlessly loyal to the party and the leader [suryong], effected brilliant feats in socialist economic construction by upholding the new revolutionary policies put forward by the party and by demonstrating the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle and a sense of peerless patriotic devotion.

Even in the Third Seven-Year Plan period, in which we faced the most difficult situation, the annual rate of growth averaged 5.6 percent and the industrial output increased 1.5 times during the 1987-1993 period. This clearly proves that the steps taken by our party are most just.

Our party's wise leadership, which has successfully winded up the Third Seven-Year Plan, also lies in that fact that it further consolidated the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style without the slightest degree of wavering even under arduous circumstances. In the Third Seven-Year Plan period, great achievements were not only made in various fields of the national economy, including industry and agriculture, but also in the socialist cultural construction and the improvement of the people's living standard.

Various communistic measures, such as the most advantageous free compulsory education system, the universal and completely free medical care system, and the advanced social welfare system, have been enforced more satisfactorily in this period. In addition, an epoch-making measure was taken to drastically increase the wages of workers and office employees and welfare pensions and scholarships of university and college students in over 40 percent and markedly raise the prices of agricultural produce to increase the cooperative farmers' income.

Rising as one without the slightest degree of wavering and pushing ahead with communistic measures, under an atmosphere where the imperialists and reactionaries unceasingly drive the cloud of a war onto the Korean peninsula, is little short of a miracle in our present days. This miracle clearly demonstrates the superiority of socialism of our own style that adheres to the popular masses-centered idea and immortal chuche idea under whatever circumstances.

Our party, in this period, consistently assumed a stance that there is no factor that cannot be overcome if the popular masses are aroused, and consolidated the might of socialism of our own style in every way by uniting the popular masses with the people-oriented politics and the politics of unity.

Our party turned its general interests to strengthening the revolutionary forces of chuche when the arduous situation was created and mingled with the popular masses when the time got worse.

Our people, who saw a bright future for our revolution and construction from our party's revolutionary leadership, confidently traversed along the single road of revolution by following the party without the slightest degree of wavering even under arduous circumstances. With faith and will: What the party decides, we will do, our people tenaciously and persistently fought by heroically overcoming all difficulties and trials.

Thanks to the heroic struggle of our people who are singleheartedly united with the party and the leader [suryong], the socialism of our own style has been further consolidated and the people's living condition has been greatly improved even amid the rapidly changing situation and manifold difficulties.

Our socialist society, which is led by the great party and embodies the great chuche idea, is a most stable society, which has been stable politically, has been healthy ideologically and spiritually, and has been most solid under the single-hearted unity around the party and the leader [suryong]. It has been consolidated as a most popular society where the state practically and firmly guarantees the political rights and freedoms of all people and responsibly looks after their material and cultural life.

Today, our people all enjoy a rewarding life and happiness under the socialist system of our own style, absolutely free from any social or political instability, free from the threat of unemployment and poverty, and free from worry or anxiety over their lives. Laudable communist virtue is highly displayed among the people and the whole society is overflowing with revolutionary and militant spirit.

Our people have deeply realized through their practical living that following the party is the only way to the most rewarding and happiest way of life. They are now indefatigably struggling with overflowing confidence and optimism for the consummation of the chuche socialist cause at an early date.

Our people, as they did in the past, will continue to advance by following our party's wise leadership, and effect a new revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction.

South Korea

Radio Reports U.S.-DPRK 'Unofficial' Contact

SK2012225793 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2100 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] It has been learned that the United States and North Korea on 20 December had an unofficial working-level contact in New York and continued to compromise concerning the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue that is in stalemate.

According to Washington sources, in the 20 December contact, the United States received the official North Korean response to the U.S. proposal of nuclear inspection presented on 10 December. It is also known from the sources that although North Korea showed some progress in its attitude, it will not accept the U.S. proposal 100 percent.

In the unofficial working-level contact on 10 December in New York, the United States repeatedly urged North Korea to accept overall inspection [chonmyon sachal] on all of the seven declared nuclear facilities in Yongbyon and respond to the resumption of South-North dialogue, and delivered the U.S. position that it is willing to hold the third round of high-level U.S.-North Korea talks and extensively discuss the improvement of relations when the proposal is accepted.

It has also been learned that the contact was attended by Thomas Hubbard, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs from the U.S. side, and Ho Chong, deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, from the North Korean side.

DPRK Makes Counterproposal

SK2112014493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0119 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Washington, Dec. 20 (YONHAP)—North Korea made a counterproposal to the United States at an unofficial working-level contact to discuss the North Korean nuclear issue in New York on Monday, diplomatic sources said.

The sources characterized the North Korean counterproposal as "a step forward" from its earlier response that it would allow inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) only on five of the seven nuclear facilities in Yongbyon.

North Korea apparently has not accepted the U.S. demand that the IAEA be allowed to inspect all seven facilities, they said.

There is a possibility that North Korea, while attaching all kinds of conditions, could have indicated it was prepared to accept IAEA inspections on all seven facilities, they said.

"The United States is studying the North Korean proposal," a State Department spokesman said.

The United States planned to consult with South Korea and other allies before making any response to the latest North Korean proposal, the spokesman added, hinting that North Korea could have shown a positive attitude in its counterproposal.

Christine Shelly, deputy State Department spokesman, confirmed that there was an unofficial working-level contact in New York at the request of the North Korean side.

She declined to disclose details of their meeting.

Earlier, informed U.S. sources said that the "North Koreans showed a progressive position (in their counterproposal), but it has not accepted the U.S. proposals 100 percent."

On Dec. 10, in an unofficial contact in New York, the United States urged North Korea once again to allow outside inspection of the seven nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, and to resume dialogue with South Korea.

If North Korea accepts the proposals, Washington told Pyongyang, the United States is prepared to hold a third round of high-level talks to improve relations between the two countries.

Tom Hubbard, deputy assistant secretary of state for Asia and Pacific affairs, and Ho Chong, deputy chief of the North Korean mission to the United Nations, attended Monday's meeting.

Prior to the meeting, one North Korean official at the mission had said it was difficult to accept all the U.S. proposals but North Korea was willing to negotiate with the United States if it removes the nuclear threat to North Korea and abandons its high-handed tactics.

With regard to the U.S. demand that Pyongyang resume dialogue with Seoul, the sources said that North Korea could have told the United States that it would deal with the question separately from the nuclear issue.

DPRK's Ho Chong Comments

SK2112145093 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1400 GMT 21 Dec 93

[AP/YONHAP report from Washington]

[Text] North Korea said on 21 December that the United States and North Korea must take measures simultaneously to find a solution to the current stalemate surrounding the nuclear inspection.

In a 21 December telephone interview with AP, Ho Chong, deputy chief of the North Korean mission to the United Nations, and representative of the North Korean side to the U.S.-North Korean working-level talks, which were held on 20 December at the UN Headquarters in New York, emphasized that the United States and North Korea must take measures simultaneously. He also said that such a method is currently under discussion.

This kind of position by North Korea is being analyzed as great progress as North Korea had adhered to the fact that no additional compromises would be made until the other side first accepts the matters desired during a recent series of talks held New York.

Ho Chong, however, avoided to talk further about detailed matters because he said he must abide by the agreement made with the U.S. side to not reveal concrete contents of the talks.

Foreign Ministry Comments

SK2112070193 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 21 Dec 93 p 2

[Text] In connection with the secret North Korea-U.S. contact held in New York on 20 December, Chang Chae-yong, director of the Americas Division of the Foreign Ministry, said, "Although some progress is seen in the proposal made by North Korea in the 20 December U.S.-North Korea contact, it fails to satisfy the position jointly conveyed to North Korea by the

ROK and the United States on 10 December." He added, "We will fully review the contents of the North Korean proposal and after we have closely consulted with the United States, we will formulate the government position on it."

Officials React To 20 Dec Contact

SK2112015893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korean officials have rated Monday's North Korea-U.S. contact as "not enough to satisfy Seoul and Washington" but said that there had been "some degree of progress."

The officials strongly hinted Tuesday that they were in the mood for continued dialogue with North Korea and said Seoul will consult with Washington on the results of the latest contact.

The meeting between Tom Hubbard, deputy U.S. assistant secretary of state, and Ho Chong, deputy chief of the North Korean mission to the United Nations, was at Pyongyang's request.

It was North Korea's official response to the Dec. 10 contact, where the United States demanded Pyongyang's compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and dialogue with Seoul on an exchange of presidential envoys.

"There was some degree of progress," one Foreign Ministry official said, "but it wasn't enough to satisfy Seoul and Washington."

The latest response from North Korea was progress on both of the two demands, officials said, and Seoul and Washington were to discuss in more detail before deciding on the next move.

BAI Says NSP Official 'Invented' Instruction

SK2112112593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0946 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—The Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) announced on Tuesday that a senior official of the Agency for National Security (NSP) invented a Seoul instruction during a South-North meeting in Pyongyang in September last year.

The Board, which had been looking into the suspected fabrication, said Yi Tong-pok, then special consultant to the NSP director and a key South Korean delegation member, produced to the Seoul delegation a "reserve message" prepared by the head of the NSP situation room in Pyongyang, saying it was an "official instruction fresh from Seoul."

The occasion was the eighth South-North prime ministers meeting, whose central topics were the proposed exchange of hometown visitors groups and the North's demand for the repatriation of Yi In-mo.

The BAI announcement said that Yi cabled a suggestion for sticking to the existing policy to Seoul around 0:30 a.m. Sept. 17 and as no reply came from Seoul in several hours, he produced the invented message to the Seoul delegation around 7:30 a.m.

Later when the National Unification Board asked for the copies of the messages exchanged between the Seoul delegation in Pyongyang and Seoul offices, the NSP situation room head furnished to the board some messages he invented or altered, BAI said.

It also said NSP officials in Seoul and Pyongyang delayed the handling of Yi Tong-pok's cable for several hours while the South Korean delegation itself failed to work out a single recommendation to Seoul thus prompting key delegation members to file conflicting ideas to the Seoul government for approval.

The board told the NSP to take disciplinary actions against two of its officials—one responsible for inventing a message and the other for delayed action.

No actions, however, will be taken against Yi Tong-pok since he has already left public service, the board added.

Butrus-Ghali Willing To Mediate If Asked

SK2112015193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0126 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, visiting Tokyo, said on Monday that it is important that the North Korean nuclear problem be solved through dialogue and negotiations. Butrus-Ghali told the Foreign Correspondents Club in Tokyo that he could act as a go-between if South and North Korea ask him to.

He cannot do anything without requests from the two Koreas and he must accept the role of go-between if the nations ask him to in his scheduled visit to Seoul and Pyongyang, he said. He is due in Seoul on Wednesday and will walk across the border into North Korea on Friday.

His visit to North Korea is important to promoting relations between the United Nations and North Korea, a U.N. member country, and is for a kind of preventive diplomacy, Butrus-Ghali said. He said he wanted to understand how critical is the situation on the peninsula through his visit to North Korea.

Unification of Korea is a problem that basically should be solved between the two Koreas, but the United Nations is willing to mediate between them for unification if they ask, the UN chief said.

ROK Proposes N-S Meeting on UN Chief's Visit

SK2112032093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0306 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government sent a telephone message to North Korea

Tuesday requesting a meeting at Panmunjom on Thursday to discuss problems related to the entry into North Korea through the truce village by United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali for a visit to Pyongyang.

South Korea asked the North for a meeting of liaison officers at a conference room of the neutral observer nations at Panmunjom.

Yi Chun-gu, Southern-side head of the liaison office, proposed to the North they discuss problems of offering assistance and providing convenience to Butrus-Ghali, who plans to visit North Korea after entering it through Panmunjom on Friday.

The Southern side will send two liaison officials to the meeting if the North agrees to it, Yi said.

DPRK Return of UN Soldier Remains Reported

SK2112110593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1059 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—North Korea returned the remains of 34 additional U.N. Command soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean war to the U.N. Command in Korea at the Truce Village of Panmunjom on Tuesday.

The U.N. Command reported that this brings to 194 the total of the dead U.N. Command soldiers whose remains have been returned to the command since 1990.

Moves Afoot To Allow Dissident To Visit North

SK2012083093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0813 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 20 (YONHAP)—Moves are afoot to seek government approval for dissident leader Paek Ki-wan to visit his mother in his native town in North Korea.

In a news conference at the Cecil Restaurant in Seoul on Monday morning, a group of supporters of the leader of the Unification Research Institute called on the government to allow him to make the trip.

"If the government does not allow Paek to visit North Korea because of his dissident activities, it will disappoint the nearly 10 million members of separated families between South and North Korea," said a statement by the group, which calls itself "the headquarters to gather signatures for materializing Paek Ki-wan's reunion with his mother."

Paek left his mother in Unyul-kun, Hwanghae Province, during the Korean war. It is not certain that Paek's mother is alive, but if she lives she is now 95 years old.

Among the almost 1,350 people who signed the group's petition are Prof. Kim Chin-kyun of Seoul National University, poet Sin Kyong-nim and Rep. Yi Chol of the Democratic Party.

Ex-DPRK Diplomat Says North Longs for Reforms

SK2112050393 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Dec 93 p 2

[Text] The vast majority of leading North Korean officials are longing for Chinese style economic reforms but hesitate to propose such ideas to President Kim Il-song and his son Kim Chong-il out of fear of punishment, a former North Korean diplomat said yesterday.

"Even Kim's close aides are in two minds as to whether to follow Beijing in their economic policy," Ko Yong-hwan, who defected to South Korea two years ago, told the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and National Unification Committee.

The Assembly panel invited Ko and another North Korean defector, named Yim Myong-sun, to its special session to discuss unification and other inter-Korean issues for the second time this year.

Kim Hyon-hui, a former North Korean female terrorist, was also scheduled to testify at the session but failed to show up.

"Many North Korean military officers believe that, if a war breaks out in the Korean Peninsula, the 160-odd United Nations members would rush to side with Seoul putting Pyongyang in a disadvantageous position," said Ko, who once served as Kim Il-song's French interpreter.

Yim, a former North Korean sergeant, testified that morale among the rank and file in the North is at a low point these days.

"An increasing number of soldiers are complaining of Kim Chong-il's leadership," Yim said.

Kim Chong-il is widely considered lacking in his ability to judge foreign affairs, Ko said.

U.S. Film Industry Files Copyright Suit

SK2112050693 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Dec 93 p 3

[Text] A U.S. motion picture industry concern has filed a suit against video rooms across the country for violating the Copyright Law since licensed videotape movies are for private viewing only. The suit was filed yesterday against some 250 registered video rooms by the Motion Pictures Export Association of America (MPEAA) and state prosecutors have initiated an investigation.

According to MPEAA sources, the video rooms are known to provide customers with a booth to watch movies at around 3,000 won per view in clear violation of the Copyright Law.

Videotape movies are licensed by American companies to be rented on a per view basis but stipulations prohibit all public viewing, the sources said, thus making it illegal for them to be watched at public booths.

In recognition of the fact that the U.S. is exceptionally particular about copyrights, the prosecutors are believed to moving quickly with a guideline for prohibiting the practice and subjecting operators of video rooms to fines.

Prosecutors are reportedly seeking to slap the operators with fines ranging from 500,000 won to 1 million won but stop short of bringing more serious charges against them.

The operators, however, insist that the pay-per-view practice at their video rooms are not really open to the public since it is available only to those come to their store to rent videotapes.

"It is not like we put up advertisements saying people can come in and watch videos for 3,000 won. It is strictly reserved for those intending to rent the tapes," one operator explained.

He said there are people, such as students, who do not have the facility to watch videotapes and that there is really no violation of laws involved. "We don't operate like a cinema," he argued.

The operator also said the absence of videos which can be viewed in the manner make it inevitable for them to play them at their stores.

BAI Claims Defense Agency Cheated by U.S. Firm

SK2012120593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0928 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 20 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry's Logistics Agency, now under fire over an artillery shell fraud, was cheated also by an American firm of 1,070 million won in the purchase of naval craft fire arms in 1991-92, the Board of Audit and Inspection [BAI] said on Tuesday.

A board official said that Naval Capt. To Chong-il, formerly Logistics Agency section chief in charge of overseas procurement, signed a 1,340,000-dollar contract with Samco Co. of the United States in 1991 for the procurement of naval craft fire equipment, shells and firing control devices.

The contract money was paid to Samco on five occasions in 1992.

But, an inspection certificate which Samco furnished to the Defense Ministry as a guarantee of its being a qualified arms dealer turned out to be completely false, and useless goods were delivered by July 1992.

Moreover, even though it was notified by the Navy Logistics Command of the delivery of good-for-nothing items different from contracted items in July 1992, the Logistics Agency remitted the last-portion payment of 250,000 dollars through the bank of commerce.

The BAI official said that on the uncovery of the cheating in its recent inspection of the Yulgok project, his board asked the ministry to take legal actions against Sewon Co., the Korean financial guarantor of Samco Co., and to take a disciplinary action against Cap. To.

But, all the ministry did was the imposition of a light 10-day "prudence" discipline on To.

Meanwhile, the board said it did not look into the shell fraud incident because shells procurement did not include in the 23 Yulgok projects subject to the board's special inspection.

Further on Defense Deal With U.S.

SK2112045293 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 21 Dec 93 p 23

["Cheated Out of 10 Billion Won by a U.S. Firm, Too"]

[Text] The Board of Audit and Inspection [BAI], when conducting audit and inspection in connection with the purchase of equipment for naval ships around the end of last May, recommended twice that the Defense Ministry fire Col. To Chong-il (47, former director of the Overseas Procurement of the Defense Logistics Agency [DLA]), who is now being investigated by the defense authorities. The Defense Ministry, however, ignored this and only reprimanded him lightly, it was revealed on 20 December.

According to the BAI, although the Defense Ministry came to be aware last year of the fact that it had been cheated by U.S. SAMCO [as published in English] as the latter delivered useless goods instead of the ordered parts for weaponry for Navy ships amounting to $1,346,944 (equivalent to approximately 1.08 billion won), it made payment for the goods through Col. To's instruction.

However, the inspection certificate which SAMCO sent to the Defense Ministry as a guarantee for the qualification as an arms supplier turned out to be completely false, and SAMCO delivered to the Defense Ministry completely useless goods until July 1992.

The DLA received the notice from the Navy Logistics Command in July 1992 that it received useless goods different from the goods specified in the contract. Despite the fact that it was aware that it had been cheated and instead of requesting withholding the payment, the DLC made the payment for the goods, remitting the entire balance payment of $250,000 through the Korean Commercial Bank.

Further on Probe Into Case of French Arms Deal

Military To Probe Logistics Chiefs

SK2012013993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0039 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 20 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry is investigating former and current chiefs of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in connection with a fraud involving the purchase of artillery ammunition.

Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae told a hastily called press conference on Sunday afternoon that the military authorities were questioning DLA director Lt. Gen. Yi Su-ik and four others who served as DLA head between 1987 and 1993.

They are Chang Hong-yol, Kim Hak-ok and Yi Sang-ho, all retired lieutnant generals, and Gen. Yi Chun, commander of the First Army, Kwon said.

In addition, the authorities will arrest two or three lower ranked DLA officers on charges of neglect of duty, including failure to report a delay in shipment of artillery shells, he said.

"Authorities are also investigating other officers," Kwon said, adding that the government was studying ways to investigate foreign arms dealers, including Jean-Rene Fuan, owner of the French company Efico.

Meanwhile, the military prosecutor's office has asked the Justice Ministry to prohibit Hong Kol-hui, director-director of the agency's military offsets bureau, from leaving the country. This brought to eight the number of people banned from leaving the country.

Hong Sun-ki, chief prosecutor, said that the authorities took the action against Hong because suspicion had arisen over the sudden change from Pct Co. of the United States, which had been supplying 90-mm ammunition for training from Nov. 24, 1988, to the French company FEC.

Kwon said a special team of military investigators started auditing the agency last Thursday. The Defense Ministry will check the organization of the agency, its personnel structure, working orders and other systems in order to reorganize it by the end of March next year.

The ministry is also studying the possibility of receiving all military supplies through the office of supply beginning in late June next year, Kwon said.

Defense Minister Interviewed

SK2112035693 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 20 Dec 93 p 2

[Interview with National Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae by Chong In-hwa regarding arms fraud; place and date not given]

[Text] [Chong In-hwa] When did you receive the first report on this case?

[Kwon Yong-hae] I received the report on 6 August from the director of the Defense Logistics Agency [DLA]. It was a report of a simple bank error in which the Korea Exchange Bank branch mistakenly paid a faulty bill of lading for the purchase of artillery shells. I gave orders for measures to be taken so that this wouldn't result in a loss to the national treasury and to look into whether related military officials were either conspiring or related to the issue.

[Chong] It is known that the working-level officers will be arrested.

[Kwon] While it is difficult to admit conspiracy or dereliction of duty as yet, it has been confirmed that they did not properly report that the artillery shells had not arrived and that shipping had been delayed to their superiors in their Army Logistic Command report. If they are found to have deliberately neglected their duty to report, two or three officers will be arrested on charges of dereliction of duty.

[Chong] Have you investigated those who received the report?

[Kwon] Investigations are under way on the content and timing of reports received by the four related DLA directors, and on whether it was their responsibility to report to the Defense Ministry. Three previous DLA directors have been summoned for investigations, and we are reviewing whether we should summon General Yi Chun, who is on active duty as commander of the ROK First Army.

We have also requested that Hong Kol-hi, then director of overseas procurement and current director of offset trade, to be prohibited from leaving the country. Director Hong has been found to have ignored the regulation that says that a new contract had to be drawn up when the importer of 90mm gun shells was changed from PCT International to FEC Co. Hong is being investigated for conspiring with the contractor.

[Chong] The prosecutor says you received the first report on 28 July.

[Kwon] I do not remember exactly when I received the report from the judiciary management officer that something was wrong with the DLA. I ordered the DLA director to make another report, and I received the report on 6 August.

[Chong] How is it that this case was not revealed during the audit procedures?

[Kwon] Because there are too many contracts, it is difficult to check all the projects, and a case like this is unlikely to reveal itself unless the officer in charge reports it.

[Chong] What kind of legal measures will be taken regarding the banks?

[Kwon] Proof that the letter of credit did not conform with the bill of lading and that the bill of lading itself was defective have been submitted to the Office of Bank Supervision and Examination, but if they do not come up with a satisfactory decision during the coordination procedure, we will sue for legal damages.

[Chong] What is the reason for the suspension of the internal investigations during the negotiation with the banks?

[Kwon] We simply deemed it a banking incident and focused on retrieving the national treasury. We planned to hold related persons responsible for legal violations later. At first, we did not think fraud was involved.

[Chong] When did you first think it to be fraud?

[Kwon] The bank offered conditions that are difficult to be accepted and denied the mistakes, so I thought that it may not be a simple banking incident and demanded a thorough investigation. It was in November when I first judged it to be fraud.

[Chong] In what direction can the DLA system be improved?

[Kwon] This will be determined after the results of the investigation into dereliction of duty conducted by the special inspection group are revealed. However, I think transfer purchases of simple commodities repeated every year to the Office of Supply may be simplified. Our policy is to improve it as many mistakes seem to result from the heavy workload for nonexperts.

Ministry Reportedly Covered Up Fraud

SK2112092293 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 21 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] It has been learned that even though the Defense Logistics Agency [DLA] of the National Defense Ministry was aware of the fraud incident regarding the introduction of bombs in December last year, the DLA covered up this incidence of fraud for as many as eight months.

In addition, it has been learned that though the Military Prosecution Office first became aware of fraud on 28 July and reported it to National Defense Minister Kwon, he suspended the investigation on grounds that the Korea Exchange Bank should, above all, retrieve the money. Furthermore, as the DLA tends to provide a false date for when it first knew of incidents of fraud, suspicion of the DLA's attempt to intentionally conceal fraud abounds.

According to the Military Prosecution Office on 20 December, even though Yi Myong-ku (45) (incumbent secretary of the foreign fund management section under the DLA) was aware of the fraud in December of last year, he reported it to his superior, Colonel Yun Sam-song (49), director of the foreign fund management department, three months later in March. Colonel Yun, in turn, did not report this to former DLA Director Yi Chun (incumbent commander of the First ROK Army) at once, but three months later on 16 June. In addition, DLA Director Yi Chu-ik, the successor to former DLA Director Yi Chun, gave an official report on this to Defense Minister Kwon on 6 August, two weeks after he was appointed DLA director.

With the revelation of these facts, the Military Prosecution Office arrested and imprisoned Yun Sam-song, director of the department of foreign fund management who was actually responsible for the bombs-purchase business, and Yi Myong-ku, the former secretary of the second foreign fund management department who was involved in the bomb purchase, on charges of dereliction of duty.

The Military Prosecution Office has decided to continue investigating whether they were involved in the arms fraud incident in collusion with the arms-dealing intermediary Mr. Chu Kwang-nam (52) who has escaped overseas or through collusion with the French arms dealer Mr. Fuan Jean-Rene. The Military Prosecution Office has decided to look into Mr. Hong Kol-hui (54, head of the Arrangement and Trade Office under the Defense Logistics Center); and Mr. Yang Yong-yop (civilian employee of section two for foreign funds) who was in charge of the bomb-purchase business. The Military Prosecution Office has decided that they will imprison them if evidence of dereliction of duty is found.

Furthermore, in order to investigate charges of negligence and delay in the processing of the report on this affair, the Military Prosecution Office on 20 December summoned Kim Hak-ok, former DLA director; Kim Chong-kun (major general, incumbent commandant of the ROK Army Technical Branches School), former head of the second procurement department under the DLA; and Cho Yom-won (Colonel with Navy DLA), former chief of foreign fund management section. The Military Prosecution Office is investigating the process of selecting arms procurement companies; how mistakes occur in the process of concluding contracts; the reason for lengthening the date of payment; and the suspicion of contacts with intermediaries.

On 20 December, the Military Prosecution Office revealed in an interim investigation announcement that "Even though evidence of negligence and delay in reporting to the senior office were found, collusion for fraud, intentional dereliction and negligence of duty have yet to be revealed."

French Dealer Claims Innocence

SK2012090593 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 20 Dec 93 p 3

[By reporter Choe U-chol]

[Text] In a telephone conversation with CHOSON ILBO on the evening of 19 December, Jean-Rene Juan, the French arms dealer who allegedly ran off after showing a false bill of lading and pocketing $6.7 million he received for artillery ammunition, insisted, "I knew that the bill of lading was forged, but the money was drawn out by Chu Kwang-yong (domestic arms dealer who has escaped overseas)."

Juan called in person after receiving the message left by CHOSON ILBO at his house near Paris. He said during the telephone conversation, "I do not know how the situation developed because I was not in Paris at that time (when the money was drawn out from the Paris branch of the Korea Foreign Exchange Bank after the false bill of lading was shown)," and added, "Chu must have deposited the money in a safe place." Regarding Chu's whereabouts, however, he copped out by saying, "I have not been able to contact him since the accident occurred, so I do not know where he is now."

Juan insisted on his innocence by saying, "I never intended to commit fraud on the ROK Defense Ministry," and he said, "We have fulfilled our special mission for the ROK Government."

He also said, "The incident concerning the purchase of artillery ammunition was a ruse aimed at covering up a larger, secret and special project," and said, "The $6.7 million for the artillery ammunition, is merely a portion."

While emphasizing that he is involved in a large-scale secret project, he desperately avoided mentioning details. He said that he "cannot reveal the characteristics of the special mission because it involves the security of the ROK." At present, we do not know how credible Juan's insistence is.

In addition to the telephone call, Juan sent a facsimile to CHOSON ILBO that same day. In the facsimile, he said that "circulation of groundless rumors have aggravated the situation," and asked CHOSON ILBO to "publish his remarks in a news article to inform the general public."

Then he said, "My father is a Korean." He also said, "The Defense Ministry accepted my request for more time, but Mr. Yi (probably military serviceman Yi Myong-ku) of the Defense Logistics Center changed conditions, thus making it difficult for me to fulfill the mission." He then added, "The incident occurred due to the Defense Logistics Center's ineptitude in dealing with matters."

Central Figure in Case Profiled

SK2112064893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0554 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Paris, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—Jean-Rene Fuan, the central figure in a multimillion-U.S.-dollar arms swindle involving the South Korean Defense Ministry, is wrapped in mystery. Since the fraud surfaced in July, he has had two telephone contacts with the Defense Ministry and one with a Seoul daily but has not appeared in person.

He called the military logistics attache at the Korean Embassy in Paris on Nov. 10, claiming to be in Russia, and again on Nov. 16, this time purportedly from the capital of the United Arab Emirates, to say that he was trying to settle accounts with the ministry.

The calls were in response to a request for a meeting that the attache had sent to a facsimile machine, which has been traced to an apartment in the suburbs of Paris.

This number was Fuan's point of contact with the Korean Embassy and belongs to an apartment with a woman's nameplate on the door. It was locked on Monday and there was no answer.

When the fraud was first reported by the press on Dec. 15, Fuan was thought to have offices in Paris, Liechtenstein, Hong Kong and Britain. It is now known that these offices closed long ago.

Neither Fuan nor the woman whose name is on the apartment door are listed in the Paris telephone directory. The facsimile machine was the only means of communication with Fuan available to the embassy, and now it has been severed.

Officials of the embassy and Korea Exchange Bank's Paris branch who did business with Fuan are all in Korea, but some people in the Korean community in Paris know him. He is thought by embassy officials to be in his 50s, but his nationality is unknown. He told the newspaper that he was born in France and his father was Korean, but the name Fuan has Chinese or Vietnamese roots.

If he is in his 50s, he must have been born before 1945. There were very few Koreans in France at that time.

Some members of the Korean community say he is in his late 30s or early 40s, but this has not been confirmed either.

There is evidence he withdrew 6.7 million U.S. dollars from the Paris branch of Korea Exchange Bank in payment by the Defense Ministry for ammunition and remitted it to a bank in another country, but Fuan has said his agent, Chu Kwang-yong, president of Kwangjin Trading Co. in Seoul, withdrew the money and put it in a safe place. He has also said he and Chu worked for the Korean Government under a special contract, hinting at influential connections in the Korean Government.

This suggests Fuan is a scapegoat and not the principal culprit in the arms scam, but he is likely to remain an enigma unless he comes forward and tells the truth.

Background of Participants Noted

SK2012132093 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 20 Dec 93 p 30

[By Kim Yong-sik]

[Text] Who on earth are Jean-Rene Juan and Juan's Korean agent Chu Kwang-nam (52), connected with the National Defense Ministry's arms-dealing fraud incident? They have already disappeared after pocketing $6.7 million for importing weapons.

The prosecution summoned and interrogated Mr. Min Kyong-on (52), indicted by the National Defense Ministry, and Mr. Steve Yim [as transliterated], who said he is willing to voluntarily go to the prosecutor's office on 20 December to give background information. Attention is also focused on them, even though they are not directly involved in the arms-dealing fraud incident.

Jean-Rene Juan:

Juan, representative of Epico, a French arms-dealing company which turned out to be a bogus company, has visited the ROK several times. According to arms dealers, he is in his mid-fifties and has never worked at a specialized French organization. He has actually dealt in special weapons, including missiles, which are embargoed goods.

Juan has been using his Hong Kong branch as a base. It has been learned that when Mr. Chu Kwang-nam brought the former Soviet-made tanks into Korea in 1987, he used Juan's Hong Kong branch.

Chu Kwang-nam:

Mr. Chu, representative of Kwangjin Trade and the Korean agent for Epico, served as an artillery officer. He worked at a general trade company after his military service. He established Kwangjin Trade in 1977 and has been in the arms-dealing business full-flegedly since then.

In 1987, before the ROK-Russian diplomatic relations were established, Mr. Chu succeeded in bringing the T-72 Russian-made tanks into Korea and, in this way, distinguished himself in arms dealings.

According to business circles, Mr. Chu attempted to sell 500,000 Korean-made M-16 rifles to Iran six or seven years ago and has been very interested in selling Korean-made weapons to overseas countries.

Min Kyong-on:

Mr. Min is the representative of the Naewoe Foreign Business firm. He and Mr. Chu have been indicted by the National Defense Ministry on charges of lending his company's name to Mr. Chu.

Mr. Min is the son of Mr. Chang, president of a golf course with a name that starts with the letter N. Steve Yim is his wife's brother.

Mr. Min voluntarily came to the prosecution office on 18 December and revealed that "I just lent my company name to Mr. Chu, who is not eligible to deal in arms and supplied bidding deposits for Mr. Chu. I am not directly involved in the arms-dealing fraud incident."

Steve Yim:

He is a Korean resident in the United States who has played a major role in arms deals between the ROK and the United States. He lost his parents during the Korean war and worked as a house boy in a U.S. Army unit. His Korean name is Yim Chong-tok. He was adopted by a U.S. general when he was 14 years old. It has been learned in business circles that he graduated from a prestigious U.S. university and received a doctorate in political sciences.

After graduating from the university, he joined a U.S. ranger unit—special unit—participated in the civil war in Congo, Africa; and served in the U.S. Eighth Army, Seoul, during the mid-seventies. This is when he formed personal relations with the cadres of the ROK Army. Since then he has been in the arms-dealing business.

In connection with the arms-dealing fraud incident, Mr. Yim notified the prosecution office that "I will voluntarily come to the prosecution office on 20 December." Attention is focused on the contents of his remarks.

ROK Commerce Society Inaugurated in China

SK2012120993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1055 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Beijing, Dec. 20 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Society of Commerce, a consultative organization of Korean industries active in China, was inaugurated in a brief ceremony here in Beijing Monday.

The ceremony was attended by Ambassador Hwang Pyong-tae and about 100 representatives of Korean industries in business at Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Dalian, Qingdao, Shenyang and elsewhere in China.

The South Korean society, formally recognized by the Beijing government, plans to open branches in major provincial areas and promote multi-faceted cooperative programs with ethnic Korean communities in China.

Prime Minister Appoints New Cabinet Members

Spokesman Announces New Cabinet

SK2112052793 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0500 GMT 21 Dec 93

[List of the new cabinet announced by Chongwadae spokesman Yi Kyong-chae from the presidential residence in Seoul—live]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Planning Board: Chong Chae-sok

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Unification Board: Yi Yong-tok

Minister of:
Home Affairs: Choe Hyong-u
National Defense: Yi Pyong-tae
Education: Kim Suk-hui
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries: Kim Yang-pae
Construction: Kim U-sok
Health and Social Affairs: So Sang-mok
Labor: Nam Chae-hui
Transportation: O Myong
Government Administration: Hwang Yong-ha
Environment: Pak Yun-hun
Minister of State for Political Affairs (1st): So Chong-won
Director of Patriots and Veterans Affairs Agency: Yi Chung-kil

Cabinet Appointees Profiled

SK2112060893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0537 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—Transportation Minister Chong Chae-sok was promoted to deputy prime minister and economic planning minister, replacing Yi Kyong-sik.

Choe Hyong-u, a former secretary-general of the ruling party, was named home affairs minister in a cabinet reshuffle Tuesday.

Myongji University professor Yi Yong-tok was appointed deputy prime minister and unification minister, Ewha Womans University professor Kim Suk-hui was named education minister, and Kim Yang-pae, presidential aide for governmental affairs, was named agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister.

Others of the 14 appointees include Construction Minister Kim U-sok, president of the Korea Land Development Corp., Health and Social Affairs Minister So Sang-mok, head of the Democratic Liberal Party Policy Coordination Office, Transportation Minister O Myong, president of the Korea Baseball Organization.

Hwang Yong-ha, secretary-general of the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI), was chosen as minister of government administration, and Pak Yun-hun, a former minister for Office of Legislation, becomes environment minister.

DLP lawmaker Rep. So Chong-won was selected first state minister for political affairs while Yi Chung-kil was promoted from vice minister to minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

DLP lawmaker Rep. Nam Chae-hui was named labor minister.

Yi Pyong-tae, minister of Patriots and Veterans Administration, was named defense minister.

Retained in the cabinet are Ministers Han Sung-chu of foreign affairs, Hong Chae-hyong of finance, Kim Tu-hui of justice, Yi Min-sop of culture and sports, and Kim Chol-su of trade, industry and energy.

Also staying are Yun Tong-yun of communications, Kim Si-chung of Science and Technology, O In-hwan of information, and Kwon Yong-cha, second state minister for political affairs.

Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) Chief Kim Tok also was retained.

Further Information on Appointees

SK2112132293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0712 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam made 14 changes in the lineup of his cabinet Tuesday. Following are thumbnail sketches of the new faces:

—Chong Chae-sok, 63, was promoted to deputy prime minister and economic planning minister only two months after he was appointed transportation minister. Born in Changsu, North Cholla Province, he has served as vice minister of construction and economic planning and trade and industry minister. He was graduated from the College of Law, Seoul National University.

—Yi Yong-tok, president of Myongji University and chairman of the Administration's Public Service Ethics Committee, was named deputy prime Born in North Korea, Yi, 67, has also served as vice president of the Korea National Red Cross and chief delegate to the Inter-Korean Red Cross talks. He earned a doctorate of philosophy in education from Ohio State University.

—Home Minister Choe Hyong-u has long been the right-hand man of President Kim, having served as secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party after Kim took office in February until his resignation over a college admission scandal involving his son. Elected to the National Assembly five times, Choe, 58, has served as floor leader and vice president of Kim's Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] and first state minister for political affairs under President No Tae-u. Born in Ulsan, South Kyongsang Province, he was educated at Tongguk University.

—Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae was one of the few Army generals who had friendly relations with Kim when the latter was an opposition leader. Retired with the rank of lieutenant general in August last year, he served as consul-general in Honolulu and Patriots and Veterans Affairs minister until he was promoted to defense minister in Tuesday's cabinet reshuffle. Born in Taegu, Yi, 56, was educated at the Korean Military Academy.

—Education Minister Kim Suk-hui 56, dean of the School of Home Economics at Ewha Womans University, is an active woman leader who was one of President Kim's choices for his first cabinet. She has a degree from Ewha and a doctorate from Texas Women's University. She is chairwoman of the Korea Federation of YWCA.

—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Kim Yang-pae, 55, moved to the cabinet from the Chongwadae [presidential office] Secretariat. He was picked as senior secretary for government affairs early this year for his experience as Kwangju mayor and deputy governor of South Cholla Province. He studied political science at Seoul National University and passed the state exam for administration in 1966. He became a national constituency representative in the 1985 general elections.

—Construction Minister Kim U-sok, 53, a close aide of President Kim's, was named president of the Korea Land Development Corp. earlier in the year. A graduate of Tonga Univesity in Pusan, he entered parliament in 1988 on a ticket of Kim's Reunfication Democratic Party for his wide experience in the media and trade industry.

—Health and Social Affairs Minister So Sang-mok, 46, was widely expected to take a seat in the cabinet this round. The chief of the Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] Policy Coordination Bureau has served as vice president of the Korea Development Institute and the 21st Century Policy Research Institute, an advisory body to the president. With a doctorate in economics from Stanford University, So entered parliament in the 1988 general elections and was engaged in DLP policymaking.

—Nam Chae-hui, labor minister, was born in Chongju, North Chungchong Province, in 1934. He was graduated from the Law Department of Seoul National University in 1958. He started his journalist career at the HANKUK ILBO in 1958, worked on the CHOSON ILBO in 1962-72 and was editor-in-chief at the SEOUL SINMUN. He was elected to the 10th National Assembly in 1979 on the Democratic Republican Party ticket and was reelected in 1981 on the Democratic Justice Party ticket. He kept his seat in the 12th and 13th assemblies, but was defeated for the current 14th assembly in the Kangseo-B district last year.

—O Myong, who steered the Taejon Expo to success this year and became Korean baseball commissioner last month, was appointed transportation minister on Tuesday. O was graduated from the Korea Military Academy in 1962 and from Seoul National University with a degree in electronics in 1966. He obtained a doctorate in electronics from the graduate school of the State University of New York in 1972. O, who was born in Seoul in 1940, also worked as professor at the Korea Military Academy from 1966-78. In 1980, he was discharged from military service with the rank of colonel and became presidential secretary for economic affairs. He became vice communications minister in 1980 and served as communications minister in 1981.

—Hwang Yong-ha, minister of the Government Administration, was secretary-general of the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) when Prime Minister Yi Hoechang was BAI chairman. He was graduated in law from Seoul National University in 1964 and became an assistant junior official on the National Assembly Secretariat in 1965. He was transferred to the BAI in 1969 and has worked there for the last 24 years. He studied at the University of Southern California in 1983.

—Pak Yun-hun (environment minister) was born in 1935 in Posong County, South Cholla Province. He was graduated in law from Seoul National University in 1961 and finished his graduate studies at the University in 1967. He then studied at the University of California in the United States until 1971. He obtained a doctorate in law from Korea University in 1985. He worked in the Office of Legislation from 1969 and was vice minister from 1981 to 88. He became a professor at Kyonghui University in 1988 and then became a member of the central environment dispute mediation committee and president of the Korea Environment Law Society in 1991.

—So Chong-won, first state minister for political affairs, was born in Chonwon, South Chungchong Province, in 1943. He was graduated from the Political Science and Diplomacy Department of Chungang University in 1967 and became a reporter on the CHOSON ILBO in 1969. He was elected to the 11th National Assembly on the Democratic Korea Party ticket and was deputy spokesman and deputy floor leader. He was elected to the 13th National Assembly on the Reunification Democratic Party ticket and was spokesman and chief secretary to RDP President Kim Yong-sam. He also served as director general of Policy Coordination Office III after the RDP merged with the Democratic Justice Party and is now a lawmaker in the 14th National Assembly.

—Yi Chung-kil, patriot and veterans affairs minister, was born in Chinju, South Kyongsang Province, in 1941. He studied at the Graduate School of Public Administration in Seoul National University and was an auditor of the Board of Audit and Inspection. He was an inspector in the inspection office of the Presidential Secretariat and was director general of the planning office for the social purification committee. He was the fourth administrative coordinator of the prime minister's office and vice minister of the patriot and veterans affairs ministry.

Spokesman Remarks on New Cabinet

SK2112061693 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0510 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Remarks by presidential spokesman Yi Kyong-chae following the announcement of the cabinet reshuffle at the presidential residence in Seoul—live]

[Text] In connection with this overall cabinet reshuffle, President Kim revealed that at a very important time when a new world economic order has been launched in the wake of the settlement of the Uruguay Round and each country of the world enters the era of infinite competition, the cabinet reshuffle is aimed at concentrating the nation's strength on improving the country's competitiveness by means of a full-dress reform as a strategy of existence for the country and the nation.

President Kim said he expects that the new cabinet will effectively cope with the openness and internationalization—tasks of this era—will enhance the national competitiveness by seeking labor-management stability and social stability, and will form good teamwork to make pannational efforts to help rural villages survive in the face of the opening era of agricultural and livestock products.

In selecting the new cabinet members, each individual's abilities, such as the will of reform, degree of integrity, and driving forces, are greatly taken into consideration.

Reaction to Reshuffle Surveyed

SK2112083393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0815 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—The ruling party applauded Tuesday's [21 December] extensive cabinet reshuffle, which affected 14 of the 24 ministers.

The changes fully reflect the president's determination to cope aggressively with drastic international changes and continuously pursue reforms, Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] spokesman Kang Chae-sop said.

The cabinet shows a new policy direction by its bold inclusion of honest, future-minded and experienced figures from all walks of life, a statement said.

The inclusion of five DLP lawmakers in the new lineup is a show of the president's determination to reflect public consensus in policymaking, he said.

—The opposition Democratic Party (DP) thought there was cause for concern that the president's reforms would backtrack with the replacement of reform-minded ministers.

It expressed doubts over the government's pledge to work toward internationalization and openness in the new age of economic war by retaining key economic ministers.

The large engagement of lawmakers from the democratic faction of the ruling party proves that the reshuffle aims not at efficiency and expertise but at power and security, DP Spokesman Pak Chi-won said in a statement.

He gave a sarcastic twist to President Kim Yong-sam's words that the reshuffle would cause the country's second birth and independence.

—The industrial sector was all hopes that the new cabinet will do its utmost to strengthen competitiveness and boost the economy.

The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) advised the new economic team to focus its policies on restructuring industry to cope with the Uruguay Round world trade order and to carry them out consistently.

It asked the new economic team led by Deputy Prime Minister Chong Chae-sok to radically cut red tape to strengthen competitiveness and especially attend to stabilization of interest rates, wages and land prices.

—The Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) assessed the new lineup as well suited to the country's new goals of internationalization and openness.

It expressed the hope that the new economic team will fully guarantee free business activities and stimulate investment and economic growth.

—The Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) said the new cabinet should show strong leadership in order to boost exports and raise international competitiveness.

It advised consistent policymaking through close teamwork as to present quick and effective measures in coping with changes at home and abroad.

—The Korea Employers' Federation and Korea Federation of Small Business expected the government to play a bigger role in stabilizing industrial relations and wages.

—The Federation of the Korean Trade Unions said it expected new Labor Minister Nam Chae-hui to solve the difficulties in industrial relations with his wide experience in labor affairs.

Nam was a progressive in the Democratic Justice Party, a former ruling party, and a member of the National Assembly Labor Committee.

Federation officials said that the new cabinet should provide great vision to the people and push ahead with epochal economic democratization policies, cheering workers up so that they will work with exulted spirits.

—The Council of the National Trade Unions expressed worry over the appointment of Nam Chae-hui as labor minister as he was central figure in the ruling party under Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, who pursued hard-fisted labor policies.

The council was frustrated by the replacement of Yi In-che, who had been expected to work for reform of labor policy, and council officials said that they are worried over the appointment of Nam and will watch and examine his policy.

—The Korea Employers' Federation welcomed Nam Chae-hui's appointment as labor minister. Federation officials said that Nam has a great understanding of labor affairs.

They said that they expected Nam, who has been interested in labor affairs, to lead the Labor Ministry well and that President Kim has shown he will treat labor affairs as being of great importance by appointing a man who served four terms in the National Assembly.

Reasons for Reshuffle Discussed

SK2112080493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0743 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam, preparing for internationalization of the country, reshuffled more than half of his cabinet Tuesday [21 December] to revitalize his administration, which is staggering under the brunt of a forced opening of the rice market.

In a move described by many as the start of a new Korea, Kim took a clean sweep by changing 14 of his 24 cabinet members, dropping two deputy prime ministers, the defense minister and the home minister, the backbone of his administration.

Presidential Spokesman Yi Kyong-chae, announcing the reshuffle at Chongwadae [presidential office], said the cabinet reorganization was carried out in order to cope with "unlimited" economic competition among nations in the wake of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations.

"It is aimed at concentrating the national strength to boost competitive power through reform," Yi said.

President Kim shifted Transportation Minister Chong Chae-sok to replace Yi Kyong-sik as deputy prime minister and head of the Economic Planning Board. Yi was obviously taking responsibility for the failure to block foreign pressure to open the rice market.

Sources said the president bought Chong's proven ability as a highly effective administrator when he asked him to head his team to help revitalize the nation's economy.

Rep. Choe Hyong-u, who is said to be the right-hand man of the president, was brought back in from the cold and named home minister. In the early days of the Kim administration, Choe had to resign as secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Party over the illegal university admission of his son.

A consummate politician and strong leader, Choe is expected to carry on President Kim's reform program from the Home Ministry, according to sources.

Yi Yong-tok, a former Seoul National University professor and former chairman of the Korean Federation of Teachers Association, replaced Han Wan-sang as deputy prime minister and NUB [National Unification Board] minister.

Yi, a noted conservative, will handle unification affairs at a time when the North Korean nuclear issue is gaining in importance, taking over from a man who was a popular choice in the early days of the Kim administration for views on unification that have often been described as liberal.

Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae was replaced by Yi Pyong-tae, moving over from patriots and veterans minister.

Kwon, who had spearheaded reform in the military for President Kim, was apparently let go amid a growing scandal involving the false purchase of artillery ammunition that broke last week.

President Kim also moved Senior Presidential Secretary for Government Affairs Kim Yang-pae to agriculture minister, replacing Ho Sin-haeng, who had to suffer the brunt of the near hysterical reaction against rice market opening.

Ho had to endure criticism of farmers, opposition politicians and civic groups as head of the South Korean Government delegation to the Uruguay Round.

Spokesman Yi said the new cabinet was formed to tackle the problems arising from opening of markets for farm products. The president expects "fine team work" from the new cabinet, he said.

"President Kim gave top priority on will to reform, integrity, honesty, and administrative ability when he chose these people as ministers," Yi added.

Kim Suk-he, a professor at Ewha Womans University, was named education minister while O Myong, fresh from success as chairman of the 1993 Taejon World Exposition Organizing Committee, was appointed transportation minister, and Land Development Corp. President Kim U-sok took over the construction portfolio.

Those who are retained include Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong, Justice Minister Kim Tu-hui, Culture and Sports Minister Yi Min-sop, Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su and Information Minister O In-hwan.

Another noteworthy move involved First State Minister Kim Tok-yong, a close Kim Yong-sam confidant, who was replaced by Rep. So Chong-won, a ruling party lawmaker.

President Kim is expected to reshuffle two senior presidential secretaries as well as top posts of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party on Wednesday. He will also name a senior presidential secretary for agricultural affairs, a new post.

Secretary-general of the party Hwang Myong-su, Chairman of the Policy Committee Kim Chong-ho and floor leader Kim Yong-ku are expected to be replaced.

YONHAP Commentary on Reshuffle

SK2112090893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0839 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Commentary by Kim Myong-chol: "New Cabinet Gives Fresh Look to Kim Yong-sam Administration"]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—The cabinet formed by President Kim Yong-sam on Tuesday, his second in less than a year after taking office, is considered a reflection of his desire to give his administration a new look in his second year as head of state.

He made 14 changes to the 24-member cabinet, moving Transportation Minister Chong Chae-sok to deputy prime minister and economic planning minister and appointing Myongji University President Yi Yong-tok deputy prime minister and national unification minister. He entrusted his right-hand man, Choe Hyong-u, with the post of home minister.

In addition, he brought aboard two proteges, Kim U-sok as construction minister and So Chong-won as first state minister for political affairs.

The retention of Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su and the appointments of O Myong as transportation minister and So Sang-mok as health and social affairs minister are viewed as giving an international tint to the cabinet as they are well versed in world affairs and have a good command of English.

Presidential Spokesman Yi Kyong-chae said the new cabinet was designed to pull together national energies and resources to boost the economy and its international competitiveness so as to better cope with the new trade order and unlimited market competition in the wake of a new world trade accord.

While the outgoing cabinet of Hwang In-song focused on making the transition from military to civilian rule, the incoming cabinet of Premier Yi Hoe-chang faces the task of revitalizing the economy and meeting the challenge of changes in the international situation surrounding the Korean peninsula.

The new cabinet also needs to achieve a national consensus and boost public trust in the government, as transportation disasters such as a ferry sinking, a train derailing and a passenger plane crashing, and the disaster (to some) of rice market opening have split public opinion and reduced confidence in the government.

The wills for reform, honesty and competence are the yardsticks used by President Kim in selecting the new cabinet ministers, according to Spokesman Yi.

When he formed his first cabinet, he suffered considerable pain because some of the members were found to have honesty and ethics problems.

Disappearance of Kim aid Kim Tok-yong, who was close enough to the president to be called his other self, and the resurrection of lifetime supporter Choe Hyong-u reflect a new political approach.

Choe, one of the biggest contributors in bringing Kim to the place where he is today and a staunch supporter of his reforms, had to retire abruptly when it was found his son had used illegal means to enter college.

His appearance in the cabinet, coupled with Prime Minister Yi, is a message that reform will continue. These two men are part of the president's preparations for local elections in 1995.

In parallel with Choe's return is the introduction of two other members of Kim Yong-sam's faction in the ruling party, which will strengthen his base in the cabinet.

The dismissals of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Ho Sin-haeng and Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae were expected after the nation-rattling controversy over rice market opening and military arms purchase fraud.

The replacement of Unification Minister Han Wan-sang was apparently tied to policy disagreements within the foreign affairs-unification team, which was otherwise left intact for overall continuity.

The economic team got an injection of fresh air with the introduction of new agriculture and construction ministers as well as economic expert So Chong-won as health-social affairs minister.

Another noteworthy feature of the reshuffle was the regional balance: Three from the Cholla Provinces (Chong Chae-sok, Kim Yang-pae and Pak Yun-hun), and four from the Kyongsang Provinces (Choe Hyong-u, Kim U-sok, Yi Chong-kil and Yi Pyoung-tae).

Trade Liberalized on 45 Agro-Fishery Products

SK2112050793 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Dec 93 p 8

[Text] Korea will liberalize imports of 45 agro-fishery products next year under a 1991 market opening commitment, officials said yesterday. The 45 products include yogurt, chilled pork, chilled chicken cuts, squid, eel, frozen pollack, shrimp, sweet persimmons, tea, fresh pears and sugar.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said the import liberalization is being implemented in accordance with a market opening schedule the Seoul government pledged in April 1991. It has nothing to do with the farm trade agreement of the Uruguay Round trade pact, ministry officials said.

Korea will allow imports of rice and 14 other principal farm products to a degree beginning in 1995, when the new global trade regime takes effect.

The ministry said Korea's agro-fishery market liberalization rate, the number of items whose imports are permitted as the percentage of all products, will rise to 92.1 percent next year. It will mark the first time that the rate has exceeded the 90-percent level.

The 45 products whose imports are being liberalized next year are 22 fishery products, 14 farm goods and nine livestock products, according to the ministry.

Burma

Khin Nyunt Departs for Visit to Indonesia

BK2012152193 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] At the invitation of Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Industrial and Trade Affairs Ir. [academic title] Hartarto, Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], left Yangon [Rangoon] for Indonesia via a special plane at 0700 today to pay a goodwill visit.

He was sent off at Yangon Airport by Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of SLORC and commander in chief of the Defense Services; Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin, deputy prime minister; Lt. Gen. Maung Aye, deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services and commander in chief of the Army; Lt. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2 of SLORC; cabinet ministers and deputy ministers; Mr. (I. Ketut Harbidianta), acting charge d'affaires of the Indonesian Embassy, and embassy officials; high-ranking officers from the Ministry of Defense Services; and responsible personnel from the departments.

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt was accompanied by Lt. Gen. Kyaw Ba, minister of hotels and tourism; Lt. Gen. Thein Win, commander in chief of the Air Force and minister of transport; Brigadier General Abel, minister of national planning and economic development; Brig. Gen. Myo Thant, minister of information; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; U Soe Tha, minister of communications, posts, and telegraphs; and responsible personnel from the respective ministries.

Ohn Gyaw Addresses Strategic Studies Discussion

BK1712071493 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] A roundtable discussion of the Myanmar [Burma] Institute for Strategic and International Studies [MISIS] of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at 0900 today at the Foreign Ministry Annex.

U Ohn Gyaw, MISIS chairman and foreign minister, delivered an opening address. The meeting was attended by U Nyunt Swe, deputy foreign minister; members of the MISIS; rectors and professors from universities; departmental officials; and Professor (Qin Pe Yao) and Deputy Director (Zhao Kan Quan) of the Shanghai Institute of International Studies currently visiting Yangon [Rangoon].

The morning session discussed economic cooperation and security matters in the Asia and Pacific region and the afternoon session discussed the organization and activities of the Shanghai Institute of International Studies.

The MISIS was formed in 1992 at the Foreign Ministry to study international development, thoughts, and concepts. The MISIS is headed by the foreign minister and includes officials from the Defense Ministry, Foreign Ministry, Office of the Attorney General, university professors, and specially invited persons.

MISIS members have been attending seminars organized by their foreign counterparts and plan to hold seminars and workshops in Myanmar.

Communist, Mon Rebels Return to 'Legal Fold'

BK1712153793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Members of jungle-based armed organizations have been continuously returning to the legal fold along with their arms and ammunition at various garrisons. This is because they have realized that their wrongdoings are not benefiting the country or the people. They have also gained a correct view. They have accepted and have faith in the genuine goodwill and activities of the state government.

Zaw Min Lay, a deputy squad leader in the White Burma Communist Party, returned to the legal fold at Thazin Garrison on 4 December 1993. He brought one RPG with four projectiles, three AK-47 assault rifles with three magazines, two M-16 assault rifles with two short magazines, one BA-63 assault rifle with one magazine, and 10 rounds of ammunition.

Similarly, Platoon Leader Naing Peing, Private Win Aung, Pvt. Kywet Na-ywet, Pvt. Aung Ko Ko, and Pvt. Aung Than of Company 2, Regiment 777 of the jungle-based Mon organization, returned to the legal fold at the headquarters of the local battalion in (Mokalin village) on 11 December. They brought one RPG with three projectiles; one M-79 launcher with 13 40-millimeter projectiles; one M-16 assault rifles with one magazine; two AK-47 assault rifles with three magazines and 227 rounds of ammunition; one .38 special pistol with one magazine and four rounds of ammunition; and one .32 revolver with five rounds of ammunition.

All were warmly welcomed by responsible personnel at the garrisons.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Opposed to Pacts With Superpowers

BK2012135093 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1044 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Sungai Petani, Malaysia, Dec 20 (BERNAMA)—Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today Malaysia does not believe in pacts with the powerful countries with a promise of assistance if it is attacked.

He said that based on the experience of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the superpowers acted only in their own interests.

We cannot trust anyone to come to our defence. Therefore, we do not believe in pacts with the strong nations in the hope that they will help us if we are attacked, he said at a reception in this northern town to send off the last batch of officers and men of the Malaysian battalion (Malbatt) to Bosnia-Herzegovina, at the Royal Armory Third Regiment camp here.

The prime minister said Malaysia must make its own preparations and the people must be willing to defend their nation. He said the people of Bosnia were undergoing the worst torture because they were not allowed to own weapons to defend themselves.

Actually, the other communities should allow the Bosnians the right to defend themselves but they are preventing them from doing so.

Instead, they allow the Serb aggressors to commit murders, rape and so on. [passage indistinct] Unfortunately, the big powers act according to their own interests, he said.

Dr. Mahathir said the experience in Bosnia-Herzegovina was a lesson on how disastrous war was in this era.

In this connection, he said, Malaysians should be thankful that there were people who were prepared to join the armed forces to defend the nation voluntarily when some countries had imposed conscription.

Jordan's Prime Minister on Unofficial Visit

BK1912140793 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir today received a visit by his Jordanian counterpart, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, at his official residence Sri Perdana. Dr. (?Jawan an-Ma'n), the Jordanian minister of state for prime minister's affairs who is also concurrently information minister [titles as heard], was present at the meeting as was Mr. Abdul Majid Had of the Foreign Ministry, who is also the Islamic Conference Organization's secretary for West Asia and Africa.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam is on a three-day unofficial visit to Malaysia. He is scheduled to hold a meeting with several corporate leaders including Tan Sri Samsuddin Abdul Kadir, Sapura Holdings Sendirian Berhad [Private Limited] executive chairman, and the chairman of the Arab-Malaysia group, Tan Sri Azman Hashim.

The Jordanian prime minister will meet with Datuk Tan Sri Anwar Ibrahim, deputy prime minister, tomorrow and also visit the national automobile industry.

Guyanese President on Visit for Trade Talks

BK1812035493 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0320 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 18 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Guyana, which is rich in diamonds, gold, and timber, is keen to explore areas for more trade with Malaysia, its president Dr. Cheddi Jagan said on arrival here Friday. Dr. Jagan, who is here for a five-day official visit, said Guyana also wanted more Malaysian firms to invest in his country.

We also admire Malaysia's achievements and want to learn from its experience, he told reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Aiport.

Dr. Jagan is leading a seven-man delegation. They were greeted on arrival by Deputy Education Minister Dr. Leo Michael Toyad who is the minister-in-attendance.

Dr. Jagan is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed for talks Saturday before leaving for Sarawak to meet business leaders in the state.

Cambodia

Japan Joins ASEAN in Plan To Help Returnees

OW1712091393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0836 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec. 17 KYODO—Japan and several ASEAN countries will cooperate in the supply of experts to help Cambodian refugees resettle in their home towns and villages, officials from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) said Friday [17 December]. The officials said the program, which combines Japanese technology and funding and ASEAN experience and know-how, is a result of pledges made at the Tokyo International Ministerial Conference on the Rehabilitation of Cambodia in June 1992.

Countries participating in the plan signed an agreement on its details in Phnom Penh in October this year. The participating ASEAN countries are Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Under the scheme, each participating country will dispatch 10 experts in the fields of agriculture, education, welfare and public health. Ten Japanese will be part of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program. They will instruct returning refugees in farming methods, assist in the education of children, and help set up handicraft classes for women in villages.

JICA has already dispatched experts to conduct surveys on how best to resettle the refugees. The nonprofit Japan International Cooperation Center, established by the government, will administer the program using money from the "Japan Fund," donated by the government to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The fund will pay for the dispatch of the experts from the ASEAN countries. The budget for its first year of operations is about 436 million yen.

A 10-member advance party which includes two JOCV members arrived in Cambodia in November.

The remainder of the group will arrive in February and will be stationed at five regional centers in the two southern Cambodian provinces of Takeo and Kompong Speu.

Leaders Welcome Resumption of Weekly Audiences

BK2112115793 Phnom Penh AKP in English 1005 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP December 21—National Assembly President Chea Sim and Co-Prime Ministers Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen have warmly welcomed King Sihanouk's suggestion to resume weekly public audience.

In a joint message to King Norodom Sihanouk dated on December 16, the National Assembly president and co-prime ministers said: "We accept to implement your majesty's clear-sighted thought in cooperation with the three parties which have their representatives in the National Assembly, especially with ministers to the royal palace in preparing and regularly starting your royal program of weekly public audience."

King Norodom Sihanouk has suggested to resume weekly public audience in the royal palace in Phnom Penh as he had done during his "Sangkum Reas Niyum" time in the 1960s.

In his letter sent from Beijing to Samdech Chea Sim, president of the National Assembly, Samdech Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, and H.E. Hun Sen, respectively first and second prime ministers, which was released on December 14, the king said the weekly public audience should be done every Monday at 9 A.M. right after his return in March or April.

The king also suggested that participants to the audience should include members of the royal supreme council, three government's representatives and three National Assembly's representatives from the three political parties, FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], CPP [Cambodian People's Party] and BLDP [Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party].

Party Source Reveals Allocation of Governorships

BK1812142493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1356 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 18 (AFP)—Nearly two months after its formation, Cambodia's coalition government has solved the sensitive issue of which party should get the governorship of each of the country's 21 provinces, a FUNCINPEC [National United Front for a Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] source said Saturday. The royalist FUNCINPEC party led by First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, which won 58 of the 120 seats in parliament, will get 11 provinces and 10 will go to the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], the source said. Among those to be governed by FUNCINPEC are the capital Phnom Penh, Kompong Som, the site of the country's deep water seaport, Siem Reap, home to the world famous temples of Angkor Wat. It also gets Prey Veng, an eastern province at the heart of the failed seccessionist movement led by CPP hardliners in protest at the party's defeat at the polls.

Although FUNCINPEC had decided on the names of its governors, the party source said they were not yet official. The CPP had yet to draw up its list, he said.

Diplomats have long expressed concern over the question of governors, saying it would be a major test for the government's authority. Many of the provinces, especially the remote ones, are quasi autonomous and the power structures of the former Phnom Penh regime are deeply rooted, diplomatic sources warned. Authorities in some of the conflict-plagued provinces may not be quick to accept former battlefield foes as current political allies, they said.

"Will FUNCINPEC have enough qualified people to fill in the posts in the provinces and will the former power be willing to sacrifice its positions?" outgoing Thai ambassador Sunai Bunyasiriphan questioned in a recent interview with the Thai paper THE NATION.

A proposal to have the party that won the election in each province be given the right to appoint the governor was dropped in favour of the current split of 11-10. But it was not clear on what grounds the division was made and the royalist source had no comment to make on the issue.

CPP, for instance, will retain control of Battambang, with the country's second largest city, and Kompong Cham, the most populous province, although both were lost to the royalists in the polls.

As the CPP had yet to put forward names, it was not known whether some of the former communists's more infamous governors would remain in power such as Battambang's Ung Samy and Kompong Cham's Hun Nheng.

U.N. peacekeepers tried unsuccessfully to have Ung Samy, the nephew of CPP chairman of the national assembly Chea Sim, removed on suspicion that he was involved in a wave of often lethal attacks on FUNCINPEC members.

Hun Nheng, the brother of co-premier Hun Sen, initially led his province into the seccessionist movement but reversed his action after a flying visit from his brother before the movement collapsed.

U.S. Blows 'Hot and Cold' About Khmer Rouge

BK1812083393 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Unattributed "political article": "The United States Is Blowing Hot and Cold About the Khmer Rouge"]

[Text] Some Cambodian watchers have lately expressed the view that the United States seems to be blowing hot and cold about the decision to include the Khmer Rouge in the legal government of Cambodia. It has been noted that U.S. officials sometimes warned that aid cannot be given to a Cambodian Government, which includes the Khmer Rouge, but on other occasions they said the U.S. Government never repudiated the possibility of incorporating the Khmer Rouge in the legal government.

During his recent visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr. Winston Lord said the inclusion of the Khmer Rouge in the legal government was likely to complicate the situation—we should never forget the killing fields of those perpetrators; if the Khmer Rouge group joins the government, we will need to wait to identify the participants. He added that it is beyond doubt that the Khmer Rouge inclusion will further complicate his efforts. Somehow, Mr. Lord clearly indicated the United States' intention of supporting the Cambodian Government, allowing it to decide its destiny itself.

With these changeable stances, it is very difficult to understand what the United States wants from the concrete and ongoing situation in the Kingdom of Cambodia. It is not surprising that the Khmer Rouge plays the game of simultaneously fighting and negotiating to demand roles, to expand territory, or to drag on to seize a total victory; but what about the United States—is it playing a carrot-and-stick game?

Report on 12-14 Dec Attacks by Khmer Rouge

BK1812113993 Phnom Penh AKP in French 1018 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 18 Dec (AKP)—A group of 50 Khmer Rouge guerrillas from Division 450 attacked the Toek Thla position held by government forces in Banteay Meanchey Province on 14 December, said a 5th Military region source. A bridge was also blown up during the onslaught, which began at 1330. The source added that no loss of human lives was reported.

On 13 December in Battambang Province, some 200 Khmer Rouge troops from Divisions 415, 471, and 404 along with four 85-mm and D-30 heavy guns were sent to the areas of Phnum Kon Damrei, Chamlang Chuoy, and Chamka Stoeng.

A group of 50 Khmer Rouge guerrillas launched an offensive attack at midnight on the government troops' position in sector 44/51, 14 km east of the district seat of Stoung in Kompong Thom Province on 12 December. On the morning of 13 December, another group of Khmer Rouge fired several H-107 rockets on sector 42/52, 12 km north of the same district.

A group of 30 armed Khmer Rouge guerrillas from Division 920 presented themselves to the authorities in Baray District of Kompong Thom Province on 14 December.

Indonesia

Suharto Meets Visiting Burmese Ministers

BK2112075693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Burma wants to enhance cooperation, particularly in the economic field with Indonesia because of the success of the latter's economic development over the past 25 years. Hartarto, coordinating minister for industrial and trade affairs, said this after accompanying a Burmese delegation comprising seven ministers for talks with President Suharto at Merdeka Palace this morning. According to Minister Hartarto, Burmese ministers in charge of forestry, agriculture, communications, tourism, posts, and telecommunications are visiting Indonesia.

[Begin Hartarto recording] Of course, as a fellow Southeast Asian country, we feel happy that the patterns that we have developed can provide and be used as a comparison. Indeed, Indonesia is unable to give aid to other countries. However, we are willing to share our experience with others. [end recording]

The Burmese delegation led by the secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council will hold talks this afternoon with Ginanjar Kartasasmita, minister and chairman of the National Development Planning Board, to seek inputs on Indonesia's second-phase national development plan.

Thai Fishermen Seize Three Marine Policemen

BK1512085993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The deputy speaker of the Aceh provincial house of representatives says the seizure by Thai fishermen of three members of the Aceh Marine Police while carrying out a naval security operation in West Aceh must be settled through diplomatic channels. Here is RRI Banda Aceh correspondent Burhanuddin reporting on the matter.

[Begin Burhanuddin recording] Drs. H.M. Taher Syah, deputy speaker of the Aceh provincial house Of representatives, pointed out that the reported seizure by Thai fishermen of three members of the Aceh Marine Police while carrying out a naval security operation in West Aceh must be settled through diplomatic channels. The deputy speaker of the Aceh provincial house of representatives made the remarks when replying to questions from RRI about the intrusion by Thai fishing vessels into

West Aceh waters some 320 kilometers from Banda Aceh. He said sanctions should definitely be imposed on the Thai fishermen if an investigation shows that they have violated Indonesian waters. The Aceh Marine Police reportedly detained a Thai vessel with 16 crew members aboard. This is one of dozens of Thai vessels entering Aceh waters, and is being held at the West Aceh district police. [end recording]

North Sulawesi Governor on Foreign Trawlers

BK1612095793 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 26 Nov 93 93 p 6

[Excerpts] Manado, 26 Nov—C.J. Rantung, governor of North Sulawesi province, has expressed concern over the presence of many foreign fishing trawlers illegally fishing in the territorial waters around his province. He said that, due to this, production at several fish canning factories in the area has been disrupted due to a shortage of fish.

The governor said in Manado recently that the fish in the waters of the Indonesian Exclusive Economic Zone are usually plundered by more than 100 units of chartered fishing boats. Their illegal fishing activities are carried out by using the long line, purse sein, and gill nets [preceding six words in English].

The chartered fishing trawlers are flying Taiwanese, Hong Kong, and Philippine flags with the majority of the crew members being foreign nationals too. [passage omitted]

The foreign fishing trawlers operating in waters around North Sulawesi are also posing problems for the marine police. Navy Colonel Mintono, commandant of the Bitung Naval jetty, said his men used to come across foreign boats using fake permits to fish in the area. Some were captured while illegally fishing in Indonesian territorial waters. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, data from the North Sulawesi provincial fishery agency has revealed to SUARA PEMBARUAN [SP] that in 1993, not less than five foreign fishing trawlers flying the Philippine flag had trespassed into Indonesian territorial waters and carried out illegal fishing there.

Hengkie R.F. Wowor, head of the permit issuance division at the provincial fishery agency told SP that not less that 100 units of foreign fishing trawlers had obtained operational permits from the Directorate General of Fishery and they were chartered by 16 fish processing industries that are mostly Jakarta-based.

He said it is difficult to control the influx of foreign fishing trawlers entering the province's territorial waters, especially when the availability of support measures and other facilities to control the illegal activities are very limited. As a result it is difficult to detect the amount of fish stolen by the foreign trawlers. [passage omitted]

Suharto on Education Reform, G-15 Summit

BK1712125593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] President Suharto says Indonesia carried out its education modernization program before organizations such as UNESCO, UNICEF, and the UNHCR called on developing countries with large populations to upgrade their educational programs. The head of state said this aboard the plane that carried him home to Jakarta from the education-for-all conference in New Delhi, India. The president also discussed the reasons for the postponement of the G- 15 [Group of 15] summit, originally scheduled to be held in New Delhi before the education-for-all conference. The postponement was not caused by a lack of interest among G-15 members, but by pressing domestic issues facing these countries.

Two Islamic Sect Members Jailed for 1 Year

BK1712131093 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Two members of the Haur Koneng Islamic heretic sect, Dadang Sudarna, alias Saefullah, 21; and Ipin bin Umar Zainuddin, 18, have been sentenced to 12 months in jail after being found guilty of resisting arrest and violence against the security forces. The verdict passed by the Majalengka district court chaired by Zahara S.H. [academic title] yesterday was two months faster than what public prosecutor Ahmad Ahmad Sofyan S.H. demanded. Upon hearing the verdict, Dadang and Ipin, who had earlier looked tense, left the courtroom smiling and saying they accepted the court's verdict.

Editorial Views Outcome of APEC Conference

BK2012124393 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 1 Dec 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Economic Cooperation in Asia Pacific"]

[Text] The heterogeneity of the Pacific region is not only geographical, but also economic, social, political, cultural, and religious. Recently, this region became a world focus due to the convening of the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] summit in Seattle, the United States. Also present at the summit was President Suharto. This region strecthes across half of the globe and holds about 40 percent of the world's population. APEC's members account for about 50 percent of the world's GNP.

The main characteristics of the Asia-Pacific region are its economic diversity and dependence. Included in this region are countries at different stages of economic development. Two members of APEC, namely the United States and Japan, are highly developed economies in the world and six of them are ASEAN member countries. At the same time Canada, Japan, and the United States are members of the G-7, or group of seven industrialized countries.

Economically, the region is dominated by the United States and Japan. It seems that these two countries contribute 80 percent of the waste product in the region and the amount of their exports is more than 50 percent of the region's exports.

It is not a secret anymore that countries with smaller economic resources have expressed their concern over their disadvantageous positions in the group's regional economic cooperation. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed openly said this and refused to attend the meeting in Seattle. He was represented by Datuk Rafidah Aziz, minister of international trade and industry.

Judging from the varied economic achievements, there is a diversity of economic development among APEC member countries. APEC can be considered an organization that groups countries with great economic power such as the United States, Japan, Canada, and New Zealand. It also includes the newly industrialized countries of South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. The rest are developing countries such as the PRC, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Chile.

Speaking to reporters aboard a Garuda DC-10 aircraft bringing him home from Tehran on 26 November, President Suharto said that the APEC leadership informal meeting proceeded smoothly and there was no pressure imposed on any members.

The meeting could be considered a dialogue between developed and developing countries. According to President Suharto, developing countries like Indonesia call on Japan and the United States to take the economic conditions of the other APEC members into consideration when discussing bilateral issues such as balancing two-way trade and adjusting the coversion rate of the Japanase yen against the U.S. dollar.

The yen-dollar conversion in 1988 helped improve economic relations between Japan and the United States, but adversely affected Indonesia's economy. Other developing countries that take the yen credit also feel a burden.

Now Indonesia is still suffering from the burden of the yen-dollar conversion. In view of the diversity of economic development among APEC members, President Suharto has proposed that any form of cooperation among several of its member countries should not affect the economies of the others. He said the proposal was well accepted.

It is interesting to note that the APEC leadership informal meeting was held with openness and with close cooperation. APEC leaders are committed to resolving various global economic challenges by first tackling them at the regional level.

Economic experts are focusing their attention on the internal dynamics of the countries in the Asia-Pacific as part of their efforts to promote regional economic cooperation. This is a result of the vast transformation that is taking place in the region itself. The experts foresee that APEC countries will be interdependent in trade and investment. The smooth flow of trade is also an important factor that helps bring closer regional economic ties.

With a new pattern of regional interaction in this area, the Asia-Pacific region will enjoy the advantages and bright rays of light have already emerged from the APEC leadership meeting on Blake Island.

As stated by President Suharto, the informal forum on Blake Island partly illustrated a new diversified Asian economic structure in the Asia-Pacific region and showed the determination to strengthen cooperation among APEC countries to promote the welfare of their people.

Likewise, we also hope that APEC will take concrete steps to improve economic cooperation and assume an important role in promoting global economic growth and trade liberalization to implement the commitments made by the leaders at the Seattle forum. Hopefully, APEC will identify concrete steps for improved economic cooperation at the next meeting in Indonesia next year.

Editorial Views ABRI Role in Political Stability

BK2012114393 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 29 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Armed Forces Do Not Want To Become a 'Fire Brigade']

[Text] Armed Forces commander General Feisal Tanjung has said that the involvement of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI] as a sociopolitical force in national life is due to the fact that ABRI does not want to have to act as a "fire brigade" to cool the flames of social unrest should the nation be faced with political instability. Speaking to participants in a trainign course for Indonesian Young Generation cadres in Jakarta on Wednesday (24/11), the armed forces commander said ABRI's involvement in sociopolitical development is in line with the country's political development. One of the aims of the 25-year second phase long-term development program [PJPT II] is to develop the political life of the people. Therefore, to achieve one of the aims of the PJPT II, we have to take up the challenge and ensure that development in our political life is realized.

He said that ABRI's sociopolitical function is "parallel" to efforts to develop national politics under PJPT II, because this long-term development plan is expected—among other things—to create a firm and dynamic political life, as stipulated in the 1993 Broad Guidelines of State Policy and the 1945 Constitution. The guiding rules call for—among other things—political maturity in the people's lives so that they will become a society with enhanced national unity and cohesiveness. If a mature society exists, strong national stability will exist.

ABRI is committed to the responsibility of establishing a just and prosperous society. As a sociopolitical force, ABRI should ensure that all levels of society, from the lowest to the highest, have the right to express their opinions on every aspect of national development and politics, especially if the opinions are constructive.

The sixth development plan aims to achieve five-year short-term political development. The conditions should exist to create a political culture that will, in turn, lead to responsible openess within and between the political suprastructure and infrastructure. Thus, ABRI should be able to create the political openess to support the armed forces commander's statement that ABRI never wants to become a "fire brigade."

It is possible to create national stability without the maturity of various groups in society living in unity and cohesion. But this is not genuine stability. National stability that is not supported by mature political thought and deeds is deceptive and will not last. Deceptive stability will one day turn into instability.

If ABRI is only able to grant half the rights demanded by the people, there is still a possibility that instability will emerge in the country. Likewise, if ABRI is unable to create political openess as part of its sociopolitical development and poor people lack access to development achievements, this would also cause national instability. Equal distribution of development achievements is the main target of Indonesia's national development.

The armed forces commander's statement shows that ABRI has implemented sociopolitical development to allow for maturity in the political mind and behavior of all groups in society. If national instability persists because ABRI's sociopolitical development has not yet reched an optimal stage, however, ABRI will still be needed as a "fire brigade" to ensure stability.

Laos

Khamtai Siphandon Ends Visit to Australia

BK2012142993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Khamtai Siphandon, his wife, and the high-level delegation of our government paid an official friendship visit to the Commonwealth of Australia at the invitation of H.E. Prime Minister Paul Keating.

During the visit, H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon held talks and consulted with Keating and high-level Australian officials. At each meeting, the two sides expressed full satisfaction with the development of friendly relations between the two countries. The Australian side made an additional pledge to continue increasing its cooperation and assistance in the economic and technical fields to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] both in the immediate and long-term future, especially those various projects mutually agreed upon by the two sides such as a human resources development project, a project to build the communications infrastructure, a project to improve living conditions of residents of mountainous regions, an environmental protection project, a women's development project, a public health development project, and several other projects.

In addition, the Australian side also agreed to encourage private Australian companies to invest in the LPDR. At the same time, the two sides agreed in principle on the contents of an agreement on promoting and protecting investment which will be signed by the prime ministers of the two countries in early 1994.

During the visit to the Commonwealth of Australia, H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and entourage also visited Sydney, New South Wales, (?Brisbane, Perth), Queensland, and other cities as well as some experimental institutions for industrial crops, fruit trees, and shrimp and fish breeding, tourist attractions, and many well-known natural scenic areas.

H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and the high-level delegation of our government ended the visit to the Commonwealth of Australia and arrived back in Vientiane on the evening of 19 December. A welcoming ceremony for the delegation was held at the Prime Minister's Office in the presence of H.E. Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Committee for Planning and Cooperation. Many ministers, deputy ministers, and high-ranking cadres were also at the ceremony to welcome the delegation.

Thailand Sends National Day Greetings

BK2012153393 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 14 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Message of greetings from His Excellency Chuan Likphai, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, to His Excellency Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the LPDR, on the occasion of the 18th founding anniversary of the LPDR—date not given]

[Text] On behalf of the government of His Majesty the King and the Thai people, I have the great honor of extending my sincere greetings, best wishes, and friendship to your excellency and the brotherly Lao people on the occasion of the 18th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

I am very pleased to see that the longstanding friendship, close cooperation, mutual understanding, and good neighborliness and brotherliness between Thailand and Laos have been gradually developed and promoted, thus benefitting our two peoples. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the firm determination of the Thai Government to render cooperation to your government to the best of our abilities to fulfill the objectives of bringing about happiness, prospertity, and stability to this region and the world.

On the same occasion, H.E. Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, also sent a message of greetings to H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat, foreign affairs minister of the LPDR.

Border Cooperation Discussed With Thailand

BK1812093293 Vientiane KPL in English 0817 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Vientiane, Decmember 18 (KPL)—The committees for cooperation on common border security of Laos and Thailand met in Bangkok from December 15-16 to review the result of their past cooperation and discuss what to be further implemented to ensure security along the common border of the two countries.

This was the third ordinary meeting of the committees since their establishment. It was co-chaired by the heads of the committees of the two sides, National Defence Minister Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason on the Lao side, and Supreme Armed Forces Commander Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari on the Thai side.

The meeting, conducted in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, reviewed the results of the cooperation in the past one year, discussed issues to be further dealt with, and agreed to promote any positive aspects and settle issues which were not consistent in order to accelerate the more effective implementation of the decisions made at the meeting.

On the issues of Lao refugees and narcotics, the sides agreed that they will continue supporting the policy of the two governments and of the international organization to solve them.

Sekong, SRV's Thua Thien-Hue Sign Agreement

BK1712090793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] A local source reported that Laos' Sekong Province and the SRV's Thua Thien-Hue Province agreed to increase assistance and cooperation to each other in socioeconomic development for the two provinces. The agreement was signed by the Thua Thien-Hue provincial delegation headed by Pham Ba Ngiep, chairman of the Thua Thien-Hue Province People's Committee, during its visit to Sekong Province from 11 to 13 December. The document stipulates that the two provinces agree to intensify their relations in exchange for goods, tourism, and border security maintenance. The Vietnamese side also agreed to provide the Lao province with assistance to train veterinary technicians, to supply strains of industrial plants, and to organize a reforestation training course for Lao officials.

Memorandum Signed on PRC Educational Aid

BK1712044093 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 15 December, at the Education Ministry in Vientiane, Khamtan Chanthala, deputy minister of education of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and (Zhang Zhenbao), vice chairman of the State Education Committee of the PRC, jointly signed a memorandum on scholarships for the bachelor's degree for 1994-96. The ceremony was held in the presence of Huang Guocai, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC to the LPDR, and cadres concerned from both sides.

The memorandum stipulates that the PRC side will provide 40 scholarships at this level for Lao students in 1994, 45 in 1995, and 50 in 1996. The two sides have noted support for direct contacts between the educational institutes of the two countries under practical conditions. The two sides have also agreed to support the establishment of more Chinese language training centers in Laos and Lao language training centers in China.

A further report indicated that since 1991, the PRC has granted Laos 75 educational scholarships at this level. It has organized Chinese language training courses for a number of Lao students in their preparation for studying abroad.

Sympathy Message Cites Cuban Rainfall Damage

BK1812075893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Comrade President Nouhak Phoumsavan and Comrade Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 15 December sent a message of sympathy to Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State and the Government of the Republic of Cuba, in Havana.

The message reads: We have been informed that continued heavy rainfall since late last month has caused serious damage in three southern provinces—Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo, and Holguin. Such natural disasters have heavily affected agricultural production, housing, communications, and the lives of a number of fraternal Cuban people.

On behalf of the Government and the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, and in our own names, we want to express our deep sympathy to our comrade and through you to the families of Cuban people who have been suffering from the natural disasters. We all are confident that the fraternal Cuban people under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba, which is headed by our comrade, will be able to surpass all hardships and natural disasters quickly.

Drought Causes Sekong Province Rice Shortage

BK2012102093 Vientiane KPL in English 0849 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Vientiane, December 20 (KPL)—The rice harvest this year's rainy season in Sekong Province expects to only reach 7,482 tons of paddy. On average, the yield of the lowland rice farming reached only 2.5 tons of paddy a hectare and 1.3 tons for the upland cultivation.

The shortfall was attributed to servere drought which had damaged 669 ha out of the total 1,920 ha transplanted paddy fields and 1,859 ha out of the total 6,460 ha upland rice farming areas.

This southern province needs 3,219 tons more for local comsumption. In order to avoid rice shortage which is expected to last four or five months in 1994, the local authority has 3,159 ha for the cultivation of starchy crops and plans to extend 200 ha paddy fields more, said Mrs. La Mani, head of the agriculture section of Sekong.

Philippines

Trade Official: GATT To Result in Loss of GSP

BK2112072493 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 17 Dec 93 pp 1, 6

[By Genevieve I. Soledad]

[Text] The new accord [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades (GATT]) will eventually translate into the loss of preferential quotas for Philippine garment and sugar exports to the United States as well as the removal of tariff discounts under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), said Trade and Industry Undersecretary Cesar B. Bautista in a meeting with reporters yesterday.

The Philippines is very dependent on GSP treatment, which covers some $1 billion of the country's exports to the United States. The country also relies on the quota system which allows the Philippines to ship 1.25 million metric tons of sugar and 556 million square meters of garments to the United States.

Mr. Bautista said the Philippines offered to bind its tariffs for farm goods at rates 5 percent to 10 percent higher than their levels in 1995 when government will have finished implementing its ongoing tariff reduction program (Executive Order 470). The tariff restructuring scheme scales down tariffs of finished goods to 30 percent, intermediate goods to 20 percent, and raw materials to 10 percent. Once a country commits to bind its tariffs, it cannot increase duties beyond a ceiling called the binding rate.

Mr. Bautista said the agriculture sector will now be able to export to other countries on an even playing field since the trade pact requires member countries to do away with unfair export subsidies.

Government, however, will soon have to start phasing out its protective quotas on agricultural commodities, following the example set by Japan which opened up its rice market as a concession to the Uruguay Round talks.

Mr. Bautista added the new international will have a more dramatic effect on the Philippines' trade regime than the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) [sentence as published].

The AFTA aims to partially liberalize trade in the ASEAN through the reduction of tariffs of manufactured and processed agricultural products to floor levels of 0 percent to 6 percent within 10 to 15 years.

Assistance Treaty With Australia Ratified

BK2112033893 Quezon City MALAYA in English 17 Dec 93 p 6

[Text] The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Treaty between Australia and the Philippines takes effect Sunday following formal ratifications through legislative measures by both countries, the Australian Embassy said. The treaty, signed in 1988, will reinforce ongoing cooperation in the investigation, prosecution and suppression of crime under the existing Extradition Treaty between the two countries. Crimes under the treaty refer to revenue (including taxation and customs duties), foreign exchange control, graft and corruption, unlawfully acquired or acquiring property, bribery, frauds against public treasury or malversation or fraudulent conversion of public funds or property, forfeiture or confiscation of property in respect of an offense. They also cover imposition or recovery of a pecuniary penalty in respect of an offense and restraining of dealings in property, or freezing of assets that may be forfeited, confiscated or used to satisfy a pecuniary penalty imposed in respect of an offense.

Ramos Comments on Government-Rebel Talks, GATT

BK2012105993 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in English 0634 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Weekly news conference by President Fidel V. Ramos with domestic and foreign correspondents at Malacanang Palace in Manila—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Ramos] As you know, the meeting of the so-called mixed committee is now taking place in Jolo. In view of the agreements reached in Jakarta previously as well as the preparations made by the Republic of the Philippines panel chaired by Ambassador Manuel Yan, with whom we have been in constant consultation with in the last few days, plus the very timely visit here of the secretary general of the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference], in the person of former Prime Minister of Nigeria al-Gabid, that we are very confident that very positive results will come out in that meeting today.

For your information, on agreement of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF], certain joint precautionary measures were taken to prevent any untoward incident. Also, to maintain the equanimity of the people of Jolo, and at the same time provide access to the media who are covering the event, the following were the precautionary measures that are put in place since early this morning:

1. The inner security which is one kilometer radius from the capitol of Sulu which is in Jolo town will be handled by AFP and PNP [Philippine National Police] units.

2. The outer security will be the responsibility of the MNLF which is 200 meters beyond from the outermost Philippine Marine checkpoint in Tagbak, Pundato, and Liyang, Patikul. These are in the towns of Jolo and Patikul. Two of the 11 towns only in the Jolo Island.

3. Group Chairman Yan will be provided 15 Marine security and MNLF Chairman Misuari will be provided 15 armed MNLF regulars. Those are the only armed people that will be in the capitol site.

4. The capitol building, meaning the area around it, will be secured by joint PNP-Philippine Marine elements, and the surrounding area by the Second Marine Brigade elements.

5. MNLF will deploy one battalion at the circumferential road which is about five kilometers from Jolo proper.

6. A joint PNP-MNLF element composed of six men each will patrol Jolo poblacion [main or central part of a provincial town].

7. MNLF regulars will keep off Jolo town and wait in Maimbuk, which is 12 kilometers away from Jolo, until the return of Chairman Misuari.

I would like to thank His Excellency Secretary General al-Gabid for the very positive statements he made during our meeting yesterday, and for his show of support for the... [pauses] this initiative of the Philippine Government to achieve a just, honorable, and enduring peace in the southern Philippines.

This is the position that he took during the Jakarta meeting last October which he reiterated to me yesterday.

I also informed him of the developments taking place in the ARMM [Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao] which I am personally supervising especially after my visit there last 12 December which was highlighted by the report of the condition of 454 school buildings since last August. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President what benefits will the signing of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade accrue to the country?

[Ramos] Well we have analyzed this and I put out a lengthy statement on this, but basically it will open up new markets for our agricultural products if they do not have anymore to compete with products of some other countries that are subsidized with various things including high reflective tariff walls. Secondly, I think our other products will also be competitive since we enjoy certain advantages which are no longer present in some countries but have priced themselves out of the labor market. But perhaps the best benefit of all is that there will be an opening up and expansion of regional as well as global trade.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, follow up, will this mean more exports of garments to the United States for instance, and our mangoes to other countries?

[Ramos] Yes, that is just one group of products. There are others such as carrageenan for instance, nata de coco, our 14 export winners which were given due recognition last week with the award of the so-called Golden Seal Award by the Department of Trade and Industry. Eight out of the nine winners were in the handicraft and food processing sectors. So you can see our small and medium-scale industries are getting to be more and more competitive. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] In view of the peace talks in Jolo today, do you have an update for us on the other two peace talks with the so-called left and right? For example, what do you think are the chances now of the Ho Chi Minh talks of going ahead with the NDF [National Democratic Front]?

[Ramos] Well, in regard to the panel of Professor Tadiar, who is talking to the military rebels, they are still in dialogue with each other. I think they have a meeting scheduled either on the 27th or the 23d [December], but I don't know whether that will continue in view of the holiday season.

In regard to the CPP-NPA-NDF [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front], well, as we informed you the other week, the ball is now in their court to respond to our offer of a passport good for six months for Mr. Chairman Jose Maria Sison. And I think there is some internal struggle taking place among them which we hope will be resolved so that they can all come to the conference table to talk peace with the government of the Republic of the Philippines. [passage omitted]

Government Not To Block Sison's Asylum Appeal

BK1712121693 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] The Ramos administration will not block an appeal for asylum in the Netherlands of Jose Ma. Sison, chief of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP]. According to Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo, the government did not try to obstruct Sison's request for asylum from the Dutch Government. Romulo added that Sison may use the six month passport given to him by the government if he decides to attend the peace talks in Vietnam.

Top Rebel Leader Sees No Hope of Unifying CPP

BK2112054993 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 16 Dec 93 p 8

[Text] There is no chance the rift-laden Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] can still be unified, said a top rebel leader who has been accused of criminal offenses recently by a CPP faction loyal to the exiled Jose Ma. Sison. Arturo Tabara issued the statement after New People's Army [NPA] spokesman Gregorio "Ka [Comrade] Roger" Rosal, announced over the weekend that Tabara and three CPP leaders have been accused of anti-party offenses. These include gangsterism, immorality, corruption, connivance with anti-communist politicians, grave abuse of authority, robbery, thievery, and treachery.

The four—Felimon Lagman, head of the Manila-Rizal Committee; Tabara, head of the Visayas Commission; Romulo Kintanar, former NPA chief; and Ricardo Reyes, former CPP secretary general—will be tried in a "people's courts," Rosal said. Two of the accused—Lagman and Reyes—said in separate interviews early this week that the move was intended to silence those opposed to Sison's leadership. Reyes said that the order would most likely lead to execution.

In a statement faxed to news organizations yesterday, Tabara also dismissed the charges as "lies," saying it would only lead to the "physical elimination" of anti-Sison rebels.

Furthermore, he said that it was a "gross violation" of party rules.

"The threat of terrorism signals the end to any possibility of reunification of the party," Tabara said.

He said Sison and his allies are as guilty of "criminal actuations" and "erroneous decisions" which have caused the rift in the revolutionary movement.

Tabara, who led the Visayas Commission in declaring autonomy from the Sison-led CPP in October, criticized the exiled rebel for his "cowardly decision to live in comfort in Holland and to distance himself from the practical dynamics of the Philippine revolution."

Congresswoman on MNLF Chief's Meeting Request

BK2112015093 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 Dec 93 p AT-8

[By Vic P. Arevalo]

[Text] Zamboanga City—Congresswoman Ma. Clara Lobregat has confirmed reports that Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chairman Nur Misuari wants to meet her to discuss on issues relative to the government-initiated peace talks with the secessionist group. Lobregat said that she welcomed the planned meeting with the MNLF leader because this will give her an opportunity to convey personally to Misuari the general sentiments of the people of Zamboanga.

"I see no problem in my meeting with Misuari if he decides to come to talk about peace. I can meet him anywhere, even in my residence," Lobregat said.

Lobregat said that her opposition to the announced peace talks between the government panel and the MNLF leaders in this city is not a matter of a personal viewpoint, stressing that she is also echoing the voice of the majority.

Misuari sent last week, his spiritual adviser, Ustadz Zain Jali to talk to Lobregat on the proposed one-on-one meeting with the lady solon.

Lobregat said that she relayed to the MNLF through Jali that the people of Zamboanga were not represented in the Jakarta peace talks between the MNLF and the government and that the Zamboanguenos [people of Zamboanga] had already "spoken through the 1987 referendum" in which they opted for non-inclusion in the autonomous region.

"They (MNLF) said they wanted peace and we also want peace and so there should be no second thought about it," Lobregat said.

Christians To Reject Muslim Autonomy Bid

BK2112024493 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 Dec 93 p AT-28

[By E.T. Suarez]

[Text] The Bangsa Moro Islamic Party (BMIP) said yesterday the demand of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to have 13 provinces to comprise the autonomous region in Mindanao is likely to be rejected by the Christian residents in those areas in case a plebiscite is held. Datu Firdausi I.Y. Abbas, chairman of the executive council of BMIP, said Christians are dominant in the 13 provinces which MNLF chief Nur Misuari wants to comprise the autonomous region.

Abbas said the holding of a plebiscite on matters involving autonomy is mandated by the Constitution. He said the Moro Independent Liberation Front (MILF) and the BMIP were not invited to the peace talks, saying they could contribute a lot to the attainment of lasting and meaningful peace in Mindanao.

Roaming Armed CPLA Men Bothers Abra Residents

BK2112052293 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 Dec 93 p AT-11

[Text] Bangued, Abra—Gov. Vicente Valera said recently that the presence of well armed members of the Cordillera Liberation Army (CPLA) led by renegade priest Conrado Balweg roaming around Abra has been sending wrong signals to the people. He said local officials such as governors and mayors have surrendered their firearms in compliance with "Operation Paglalansag [Dismantling]" with Abra topping the list of surrendered firearms (about 200) in the Cordillera.

"But how come that the CPLAs have still firearms with them, asked the people?"

This situation was also aggravated by the creation of a breakaway group headed by Mailed Molina and a certain Omar, and "it would seem the government is supporting it," Valera said.

The governor wants the government to have a clear-cut policy on the CPLA, stressing that if the national government orders local officials to support it, "then we'll support it."

No less than the Supreme Court in its decision filed in Abra stated that the CPLA and the newly formed group, the Cordillera Budong Association have no legal basis to exist, Valera said.

The matter on the CPLA is an executive responsibility, not the military's nor the PNP's because, Valera stressed, when they tried to clarify it with these two armed agencies of the government the two agencies said they don't have any specific instructions yet. He further explained that the presence of armed CPLA members roaming around Abra is embarrassing the government because it sometimes becomes the refuge of people losing court cases. He cited a land dispute in Manabo town about three months ago.

The group of Balweg, Valera reported, fenced off the disputed property and occupy it preventing the owner to claim his property although he won in court.

"It happened when the losing party sought the assistance of the CPLA," Valera said.

Military Arms, Trains Breakaway CPLA Faction

BK1712090593 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 15 Dec 93 p 13

[By Erlie I. Duduaco]

[Text] Camp Aquino, Tarlac—A breakaway faction of the Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA) has been armed by the government and is now undergoing military training under the auspices of the Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) here for possible integration into the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU), or the regular police and military organization.

But Cordillera Bodong Administration (CBA) chief executive, Conrado Balweg claimed that only 17 of the 400 trainees inside this camp were recruited by a fractions [as published] group misrepresenting the CPLA. Balweg said they are being used by high- ranking government and military officials to weaken the strength of the CBA-CPLA under his present leadership.

Balweg met with NOLCOM chief Maj. Gen. Orlando Soriano and leaders of the breakaway group Thursday night to assess the degree of CPLA'S participation in the ongoing military exercise behind closed doors.

Balweg told newsmen before the meeting that Mayor Mailed Molina of Bucloc, Abra and lawyer Joel Obar, an expelled director of CBA, are exploiting the name of CPLA for their personal gains.

Obar staged a coup on 25 June this year claiming to be the new CBA leader after he was proclaimed by Cordillera president Mario Yag-ao who also ordered the cancellation of all acts of Balweg and prohibiting the priest from issuing future orders.

The CBA political bureau, in a statement released through its secretary general Cabino Canggangan, however, said that Obar's proclamation by Yag-ao is "null and void having grossly violated the time-honored practice and principle of collective leadership and collective decision making."

A trainee who refused to give his name claimed that their group is identified with Molina and call themselves Cordillera Indigenous Forces (CIF).

Balweg said that 60 percent of some 2,000 original CPLA officers and cadres are intact under his command with eight tribal federations behind his leadership and accused Molina as a former deep penetration agent of the military who was expelled from the CBA-CPLA roster on 25 August 1987 for alleged graft and corruption.

16 Killed in Troop Battle With MILF Rebels

BK2112025693 Quezon City MALAYA in English 17 Dec 93 p 1

[By Edwin Fernandez]

[Text] Six soldiers and 10 rebels were killed in an encounter between government troops and members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Wednesday in Aleosan town in North Cotabato, the military said yesterday. Two soldiers were also injured and are confined in a military hospital here.

Col. Rodolfo Lorayes, chief of the Army's 603rd Infantry Brigade, said a team of Army Scout Rangers were patrolling Barangay [village] New Panay at 2 PM when they chanced upon some 200 MILF rebels led by a Kumander [Commander] Antic. A running gunbattle ensued. The fatalities were identified as SSgt. Claudio Baculanang, a SSgt. Galoso, Corporals Espino, Cabreana and Bulan; and Private Cugat, all Scout Rangers of the Army's 6th Infantry Division. Wounded were Pfc. Pedro Galante, 25, and Pfc. Jonathan Beloria, 20. Galante and Beloria said the rebels attacked from three different positions and were armed with M16, M14 and M203 rifle/grenade launchers and machineguns.

They said rebels withdrew toward Carmen town, also in North Cotabato, when government reinforcement arrived, bringing with them their casualties. The soldiers were part of two companies of Scout Rangers deployed in Aleosan town following the series of cattle rustlings, ambuscades, harassment, burning of houses, and other crimes allegedly perpetrated by MILF guerrillas since October.

At least 50 persons, mostly farmers and militiamen, have been killed due to MILF attacks in the towns of Alamada Banisilan, and Carmen, all in North Cotabato.

Last month, massive military operations were launched by the 35th Infantry Battalion in Banisilan and Aleosan towns following reports that some 200 MILF rebels were seen with four unidentified Arab nationals.

Columnist Views CPP Chief's Delayed Response

BK2112113993 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 16 Dec 93 p 4

[From the "On the level" column by Alex Magno: "What Does Joma Really Want?"]

[Text] The Philippine Government offered him a passport. The Dutch Government offered him an entry visa. But Jose Ma. [Joma] Sison still would not come to Ho Chi Minh City.

Sometimes it seems he wants nothing less than Dutch citizenship before he moves from his perch in Barrio [Village] Utrecht. The tactical and strategic needs of the movement he purports to lead sometimes seem secondary to his personal whim and private comforts.

Recall that, last year, Sison denounced his rivals for the leadership of the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] because they called him by his "baptismal name." The Dutch Government had just rejected his first application for asylum and Sison had just appealed his case. Calling the CPP chairman by his baptismal name jeopardized his appeal for asylum. That, to Sison's mind, could only be part of a play to "decapitate" the revolutionary movement.

Last week, Sison described the offer of a passport as a ploy to jeopardize his appeal for asylum—another crude trick by the ever-scheming "U.S.-Ramos regime."

That could be symptomic of deep-set paranoia. There is nothing to jeopardize, actually. The Dutch Government already rejected his second appeal. According to precedent, there is no third appeal.

The Dutch Government can eject Sison anytime. Without travel documents, he becomes a stateless person floating in limbo. Instead of imputing ill motive, Sison should welcome the offer of a passport. He can actually pass immigrations and board a plane like any normal person.

Everyone, it seems, has bent over backwards to accommodate the idiosyncrasies of this guy.

The Dutch Government has tolerated his uninvited presence. Western European NGOs [nongovernment organizations], until they tired of his dogmatism, funded his operations.

The Philippine Government has thrown in all the chips by way of confidence-building measures. Senior communist leaders were set free. The Anti-subversion Act was repealed. Government even backtracked on its earlier insistence that the talks be held in the country. This season, as it did last year, government has initiated a unilateral cease-fire.

And what have the self-exiled, self-anointed leaders of the NDF [National Democratic Front] done to help keep the peace process doing?

They have condemned the entire peace initiative as a deceptive ploy. They have systematically tried to block dissident CPP leaders from participating in the negotiations. They have asked that the Constitution be set aside and not used as a framework for the talks. They have bluffed and blackmailed to delay the proclamation of a sweeping amnesty program that would benefit thousands. They have demanded third-party mediation and, effectively, the internationalization of the domestic conflict. After suggesting Ho Chi Minh City as a possible venue, they now want a formal invitation from Hanoi.

The Vietnamese, of course, are extremely reluctant to get too involved with this brouhaha. They would rather keep their role as hosts to the minimum, offering nothing more than good offices and a suitable venue.

On the part of the Philippine Government, the impatience is beginning to show—beneath the diplomatic gestures and the kind words of official negotiators who all seem to have been born to bend over backwards.

President Ramos barely concealed pique when the matter of the rejected passport was brought up during his last press conference. Foreign Secretary Romulo was out of his usual nature when he bristled at the charges of ill motive behind the passport offer.

The impatience is understandable. The effort to open negotiations with the CPP-NDF-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front-New People's Army] is becoming an embarrassing spectacle. Where else does one find a government making so many concessions to an insurgent movement that is rapidly on the decline? Where else has so much confidence-building measures been conceded without positive response from the other side?

Goliath pleads with David. The normal conventions of political negotiations are being defied here. A political group quickly losing clout throws the tantrums. A government with all the cards makes all the concessions.

In another setting, the surfeit of generosity showed by the Philippine Government would have merited reaction from hard-line military elements or from grassroots groups articulating the popular demand for peace. The absence of such reaction is a measure of the consensus that this problem will solve itself. But Joma drains the spring of goodwill by elevating his own paranoia into a political line.

Editorial Views Stalled Peace Talks With CPP

BK2112093193 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 16 Dec 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Slow March to Peace"]

[Text] The government has done two things this week to try and get the stalled peace process with the communists moving. It has offered self-exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison a passport to enable him to travel to Ho Chi Minh City for the prospective peace negotiations, or to Manila, if the whim strikes him. It has also declared a 17-day unilateral cease-fire to cover the holiday season, the lengthiest truce in years.

The offer of a passport was seconded by the Dutch Government, which guaranteed Sison a re-entry visa. This is a clear indication of the Dutch Government's desire to see the peace process progress. Several leaders of the local communist movement have inflicted themselves on Dutch hospitality by settling in the city of Utrecht.

The cease-fire is shorter than what President Ramos preferred. But it is significant enough, not only because it is a gesture of sincerity and desire for peace on the part of government, but also because it creates unthreatened space for the various factions of the splintered communist movement to see to the business of finding their own relevance in a vastly changed world. The Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] celebrates, later this month, a quarter of a century of existence. While there may appear little to celebrate about, the opposing factions are expected to hold their separate plenums and formalize their divorce on the day that is, coincidentally, also the centennial of Mao Zedong.

The Yuletide rituals of the left are not exactly going to be joyful. Sison and his closest lieutenants have put out orders to arrest (and very likely execute) so-called "renegades"—leading members of the internal opposition in the beleaguered party. Because of that order, the outbreak of fraternal violence among communist groups is likely while the rest of society celebrates the season of peace. The most optimistic, but unlikely, scenario, is that they would use the respite from war to build a consensus for peace among their ranks in preparation for the formal talks due to commence this January in Vietnam.

Dissonant as the noises from the communists may be, the government has pushed headlong in its offer for peace. All the concessions that could reasonably be made have been made, despite the absence of encouraging responses from the CPP-NDF [Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front].

The ball, as President Ramos put it, is on the communist court. The civilian population, caught in the vise of internal war, wishes peace. The majority of public opinion wants peace. Large sections of the community of leftist organizations desire a renunciation of violence as an instrument of politics.

The bad news, however, is that those who dictate policy for the extreme left—tucked in the relative comforts of exile—are urging war. While unable to wage the war they threaten the government with, they appear bent on inflicting violence on their own comrades. Fanaticism thrives on its own crude logic.

The initiatives for peace emanating from the government may appear futile, but they are nevertheless necessary gestures. The door must be kept open. The higher moral ground must be maintained. The space for reasonableness must be guaranteed.

It is hoped all these shall eventually translate into a moral force capable of reshaping the behavior of those who dogmatically cling to an obsolete orthodoxy. The best gift the communist leadership can give the society they profess to love, in this season of hope, is to make at least the most minimal gestures of reciprocity.

Military Deactivates NCRDC in Downsizing

BK2112070193 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 16 Dec 93 p 3

[By Frank Longid Jr.]

[Text] The National Capital Region Defense Command (NCRDC) was formally deactivated yesterday, the first significant step taken by the defense establishment to reorganize and downsize the country's Armed Forces. The move will effectively reduce the number of available positions in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] by some 2,000, including 20 positions for ranking officers. The NCRDC's commander, Brig. Gen. Eugenio Reyes, also retired yesterday.

In addition, another 3,000 men with the combat units assigned to the NCRDC will have to be either reassigned to their mother units, said a spokesman for the Department of National Defense.

Ranking AFP officials said some of the units assigned to the NCRDC, particularly the Marines, will most likely be assigned to the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) based in Camp Aguinaldo, while some of the "outstanding" officers and men will be assigned to the proposed battalion which the Philippines will contribute to the United Nations Standby Forces to be established next year.

The deactivation of the NCRDC is the first major step taken by the defense and military establishments since Defense Secretary Renato de Villa announced his department would implement a streamlining plan to reduce the 120,000 strong AFP by 30 to 35 percent in 10 years.

It is hoped that the money thus saved can be spent on increasing the wages of the AFP's rank and file, as well as on the upgrading of the country's external defense capability.

In addition to reducing the size of the AFP, the streamlining plan calls for the restructuring of the military establishment with the goal of reducing staff positions. The plan calls for the reduction of the deputy chiefs of staff from 10 to five, and the deactivation of the AFP's six area commands—of which the NCRDC is one—by 1998.

The plan's second phase will begin next year, during which the Visayas Command and the Southern Luzon Command are scheduled for deactivation. The Northern Luzon Command and the Southern Command are scheduled for deactivation in the first quarter of 1995.

Thailand

Post-GATT Agreement Talks With U.S. Planned

BK2012015993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Dec 93 p 32

[Text] THAILAND and the United States will hold more talks on lowering tariff barriers on industrial products under the Uruguay Round package, the head of the Thai delegation to last week's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks said. The talks would be held under the February 15 deadline that Uruguay Round participants agreed for ironing out differences in the round's complicated market-access package.

Business Economics Department director-general Kroekkrai Chiraphaet said on the weekend after returning from Geneva that the US had calculated that the Thai side's offers on tariff reduction for US industrial products showed only 10 percent of the tariffs had been cut. Mr Kroekkrai said the Thai side insisted that it had already offered deeper cuts than the US evaluation, so Thailand asked the GATT Secretariat to make an evaluation. It showed that the average tariff cut on industrial products was 20.5 percent.

The Thai-US talks must be concluded before February 15, the period offered to countries still unhappy with the conclusion of the Uruguay Round to resolve their differences.

Thailand has offered to cut the tariffs on 3,500 industrial products with the proportion of tariff falling 29 percent from the current binding rate, which is the rate Thailand promised GATT is the maximum rate. The offers had brought down the average tariff from 39 percent to only 23 percent.

For agricultural products, the US was happy with the Thai offers as the country had proposed what had already been agreed in the Draft Final Act which sought a rate reduction of 24 percent within six years.

Some of the US requests to Thailand on reductions for products such as cigarettes (from 60 percent to 17 percent) were rejected for health reasons.

Mr Kroekkrai said Thailand also had problems with the European Union (EU) and Japan on market access for industrial products but those were ironed out before the Thai delegation returned home.

"The US is still unsatisfied with the package of Thai offers as it said Thailand's tariff reduction is only 10 percent, so in the next negotiations, Thailand will have to raise the issue that it is still unhappy with the US compromising with the EU and accepting a change of the base year for calculating the quantities of subsidised crop exports from 1986-90 to 1991-92," he said.

Changing the base year allowed exports of subsidised grain to increase 500 percent from the original agreement in the Blair House Accord, the agreement on agricultural items between the US and EU.

The compromise allowed the EU to export up to 8.5 million tons of subsidised wheat and barley. Thailand was concerned about the volume of subsidised rice exports, which would increase from 45,000 tons to more than 300,000 tons, while Malaysia was unhappy with palm oil exports, which increased from one million tons to two million tons.

Intellectual Property Department director-general Suchai Chaowisit, the head of the Thai delegation on services negotiations, said negotiations on free trade of services had not been concluded in three sectors—financial and insurance, basic telecommunications and marine transportation. This was because powerful countries, particularly the US, applied two-tier strategies to opening their services markets to countries that had already opened their markets. He said free trade in services needed future negotiations. A ministerial meeting in Morocco on April 12-15 would decide on this issue.

Deputy Prime Minister on Effects of GATT

BK1712065593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Dec 93 pp A1, A2

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak believes Thailand can expect to export an extra one million tonnes of rice to Japan as a result of the successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of world trade negotiations.

"We stand to benefit from the Round's conclusion especially in the area of farm products," Suphachai said yesterday. Speaking to reporters after delivering a speech on "Thailand's Current and Future Trade Policies and Implementation", Supachai said Thai rice exports will benefit most when Japan ends its decades-old ban on rice imports under international pressure to expedite the Uruguay Round's conclusion.

Apart frome rice and other farm products which stand to benefit from the Gatt trade agreement, Suphachai said industrial goods such as furniture, electronic parts, fish products and canned seafood are likely to get wider market access from the Gatt deal.

According to Suphachai, the conclusion of the seven-year-old negotiations means new trade and investment rules can be quickly implemented within the framework of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) at its next meeting in Indonesia.

Last month, the leaders of the 17 nation Apec, including Thailand, gathered for their first ever meeting in Seattle. Among the measures they agreed to was the development of trade and investment framework. Suphachai attended the meeting as chairman of the International Economic Policy Committee.

He insisted Thailand was willing to open its financial services sector "gradually" within three years, either by opening a new round of the Bangkok International Banking Facility (BIBF) for foreign banks, or by permitting foreign commercial bank branches to be set up in the provinces.

Suphachai warned that despite the Round's conclusion, bilateral trade between Thailand and its trading partners needs to be nurtured. He cited the United States as the best example. Thai exports to America account for more than 22 per cent of total exports, with a Bt64 billion surplus. Exports are surging by at least 18 per cent a year.

"As a result, it is important we should not be in conflict with the US," Supachai said.

John Medeiros, economic counsellor of the US Embassy in Thailand meanwhile, affirmed that Washington's "big stick", Section 301 of its trade laws which it uses to force other countries to adopt more liberal trade policies, will remain in effect despite the emergence of new Gatt trading rules.

"I can tell you that we will use it less, but it is still there," Medeiros told THE NATION. He said the controversial Section 301 will now be used in the areas not covered by international dispute settlements.

Thai trade experts expected that Washington's unilateral trade mechanism would be trimmed as a result of the new Gatt rules, especially with the creation of a multilateral trading organization (MTO) which is meant to cover international trade disputes and prevent unilateral retaliation.

Medeiros affirmed there would be no change in the criterion used to review trade disputes between the two countries.

[The following appears boxed within the body of the item]

The Commerce Ministry yesterday outlined the areas in which Thailand will benefit or lose from the conclusion of the Uruguay Round:

—Gatt will ease unilateral presslure from the major economies against Thailand on trade disputes, including intellectual property rights and trade in services.
—Foreign farmers are expected to walk off their land after the European Union [EU] and the United States cut farm subsidies. Hence world farm production is likely to drop, and Thai agricultural exports will have a better chance on the world market.
—Thailand and Australia will directly benefit form increasing demand for rice and sugar. It is expected the price sugar will edge up by 10.6 per cent, or Bt550 per tonne.
—The price of rice will increase 18.3 per cent, or Bt550 per tonne.
—Corn will increase by 4.8 per cent, or Bt125 per tonne.
—Chicken meat will rise by 1 per cent.
—Japan will import at least 400,000 tonnes of rice a year.
—Thailand will be able to export more textiles, computers and parts, canned tuna, jewellery, shoes and furniture under Gatts target for a one-third reduction on tariffs on industrial goods.
—The Thai banking and telecommunication sectors will open up.
—The country's intellectual property protection has been upgraded to international acceptance.
—Thai tapioca exports will be affected by lessened demand in the EU market as a result of farm subsidy cuts.

Daily Views Repercussions of GATT Agreement

BK2012014193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Dec 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Aftermath of the Uruguay Round"]

[Text] AFTER all the talk and talk, will last week's GATT deal bring benefits to Thailand, or have Thailand and the rest of the Third World given away so much that only the rich countries who dominated the negotiations will gain? Those who want simple answers will be disappointed. Even within individual sectors the answer is not a straightforward Yes or No. Complexity is not the only problem. Only a few calculations have been made about the impact on Thailand—paddy prices are supposed to rise about 1,000 baht per ton, for example. Mostly there are no figures to serve as a guide for assessing the impact.

But even if there were figures for every sector, they would have to be interpreted with caution. Forecasting economic growth one year ahead is difficult enough. Accurate prediction of the impact of a deal that will not take effect before 1995 and will not be fully implemented until 2000-2005 is almost impossible.

What conclusions can be drawn? First, the deal is likely to give a boost to world trade and to world economic growth. Second, whatever the net effect for any country or sector, there will be gainers and losers. Third, there is still plenty to negotiate. The task now is not to sit back, but to work on policies to help people adjust. The way the French gave up opposition to the agricultural deal and demanded assistance for their farmers in the last week of negotiations demonstrates the point. The Thai government should take note.

The boost to world trade is likely to work in two ways. First, the lowering of barriers is almost certain to expand trade, despite doubts in some quarters. The real question is whether the Uruguay Round liberalising measures go far enough to offset protectionist tendencies. Second, the conclusion of the Round should improve the atmosphere in a way that encourages more trade, perhaps even before the deal goes into effect. Based on higher national growth estimates and prospects of freer markets, traders should view the world more optimistically and producers should be encouraged to invest. Protectionist pressures should also be curbed. The boost the North American Free Trade Agreement vote gave to free traders is likely to be repeated, assuming Congress approves the Uruguay Round.

In agriculture, the Thai government believes rice, maize, sugar and poultry will win while oil palm, coffee, soybean and tapioca will be among the losers. That may be an over-simplification. Even in rice, where there should be benefits from lower subsidies in the United States and lower import barriers in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the European Union, there could be some negative impact. Thailand will now allow imports, albeit with a 20-30 per cent duty and a 250,000-ton limit. The prospect of rice coming in from Vietnam or Burma cannot be ruled out. The Government will have to prepare for political repercussions. In sugar, the deal will end the present millers and growers 30:70 revenue sharing ratio. How the system is dismantled will be crucial.

In industry and services similar considerations will have to be made. Opinion differs on whether the banking sector can compete, but the permitted adjustment period and steps toward liberalisation Thai banks have already taken should put them in a position of strength. The Thai insurance sector is weaker, but the government is going ahead with liberalisation anyway, adopting the argument that Thai companies will survive foreign competition and customers benefit from better services.

This thinking underscores that not only suppliers will be among the gainers and losers. Consumers and end-users must also be considered. They will gain where liberalisation leads to competition and better quality or lower prices, but lose if they have been enjoying subsidised products or services. The poorest countries will lose in the short term as rich countries phase out subsidised food exports. But higher world food prices should encourage farmers in poorer countries to grow more, with the rest of the world helping ease the adjustment in the meantime.

Many lessons should have been learnt from the years of negotiations; hopefully Thailand will be more effective in discussions on unfinished Uruguay Round matters and other issues. Perhaps the biggest debate now facing GATT is whether freer trade helps or harms the environment. Thailand's best policy may be to stay out of the debate and go ahead with appropriate environmental policies anyway.

The Government still has much to do on the Uruguay Round, as its officials know. Whether ministers are similarly aware remains to be seen.

NSC To Discuss New Policy on Burma Late Dec

BK2012095593 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
20 Dec 93 pp 1, 28

[Text] A Government House source has revealed that the National Security Council [NSC] will meet under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai during the last week of December to assess implementation of the government's foreign policy in 1993 and formulate a new policy toward Myanmar [Burma]. The first issue that will be raised during the meeting is the NSC's proposal for the Foreign Ministry to adjust its performance to improve the country's image. In other words, the ministry should play a more aggressive role, daring to react to criticism from other countries regarding Thai foreign policy.

The source said: "The ministry is too timid and does not dare react to any criticism, especially from the West."

As for the second issue, the source added, the NSC will suggest that the government declare its clear support for the central government of Myanmar to help restore national unity in that country. In this connection, NSC Secretary General General Charan Kunlawanit and Lieutenant General Chettha Thanacharo, First Army Region commander, recently inspected areas along the Thai-Myanmar border to observe the latest developments. Later, Gen Charan Kunlawanit went to Yangon [Rangoon] to meet with Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), and SLORC Secretary Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt. He also visited the area under the control of the Kachin minority to determine the feasibility of the SLORC's plan for national solidarity. During his visit, he was informed that the SLORC plans to hold a national convention in Yangon on 18 January. Myanmar's minority groups—with the exception of the Mon, Karen, and Kayah—have agreed to attend.

The source said that during the national convention, the SLORC will encourage minority groups to accept and enforce the SLORC's administrative laws in their respective areas—without disarming—in order to help restore peace and develop the country. This plan is also open to Myanmar students now living abroad. They can return home and contribute to national development on the condition that they disarm and surrender to the authorities. Thailand plans to send officials to the convention as observers.

The source said the NSC believes it would be appropriate for Thailand to adjust its role and adopt a clear stand toward Myanmar. Despite Thailand's constructive gestures, Myanmar still does not trust Thailand because it allowed the Nobel laureates to come and visit the refugee camps of Myanmar minority groups. Meanwhile, Western nations criticize Thailand's constructive engagement with Myanmar as a means to tap Myanmar's natural resources.

"Our previous efforts have been almost fruitless. We harbor good intentions toward Myanmar. We want Myanmar to open up and develop along with its neighbors so that it can compete with other countries economically. Thailand might also benefit from peace in Myanmar. One should not forget that Thailand shares a 2,400-kilometer border with Myanmar. If Myanmar remains divided and the fighting continues, villagers along the border will suffer. But if Myanmar can unite and develop, the problems with refugees and illegal immigrants seeking jobs in Thailand will be resolved," the source said. At present, there are over 200,000 Myanmar refugees in Thailand.

The source said that aside from discussing the policy toward Myanmar, the NSC will propose closing the entire border with Myanmar and ask the government to discourage private Thai companies from buying natural resources such as timber, natural gas, and marine products from that country. The Petroleum Authority of Thailand must also scrap its plan to lay a pipeline to transport natural gas from Martaban to Thailand. These actions should be taken to prove Thailand's sincerity to Myanmar and Western countries. The Interior Ministry, however, has proposed opening three additional border crossings. The NSC will hold talks with officials from the ministry to iron the matter out.

NSC Secretary General Gen Charan Kunlawanit disclosed that the NSC will convene a conference in late December under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai.

NSC Chief Denies Policy Change

BK2112025793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] National Security Council [NSC] chief Charan Kunlawanit yesterday denied news reports that his agency was planning to propose the Government restructure Thai policy toward Burma. The NSC chief made the denial in response to news reports that his agency was planning to recommend that the Government shift its policy to fully support Rangoon instead of toeing the two-faced line by giving support to the minority rebels at the same time.

The news reports, quoting unnamed sources, said the NSC planned to recommend to the Government that Thailand close its entire 2,400-km border with Burma to show Bangkok's sincerity to Rangoon and that it was not taking advantage of the Burmese by continuing to exploit their natural resources.

Gen Charan said the news printed in a Thai-language newspaper two days ago was untrue and unclear, as it did not name the source.

"None of my subordinates gave such information to journalists," he asserted.

Gen Charan rejected all the remarks and reaffirmed that Thailand had always supported the Burmese government.

In the next meeting of the National Security Council scheduled this month the committee would discuss general issues including cooperation in solving problems and following up the implementation of the policy, said Gen Charan, who added that nothing regarding foreign policy would be mentioned.

Sqn Ldr Prasong, on the other hand denied allegations of a two- sided foreign policy, saying the Thai Government would not interfere with Burmese internal affairs and would support any plan to restore peace in Burma as this would bring tranquillity to the Thai border.

"Thailand however will push any Burmese troops back to its country if they cross the frontier," he said.

"Thai foreign policy will not be changed because the Thai Government will do anything to restore peace instead of using violence," said Sqn Ldr Prasong.

"Our neighbouring countries, including Cambodia, are all peaceful because of our foreign policy."

However, Thailand would not act neutrally to the Burmese problem as it did when the peace plan was taking place in Cambodia.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said all checkpoints along the Thai-Burmese border have always been closed. Some may have been opened temporarily to facilitate business transactions as proposed by the Interior Ministry before being granted final permission by the Cabinet. He added that doing business in foreign countries, especially around the border, required flexibility.

The Interior Ministry has also been under criticism when it asked for three more checkpoints along the Burmese border to be opened.

Some political commentators claimed the New Aspiration Party (NAP) would reap the benefits of importing logs.

Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who is also NAP leader, said the ministry itself did not have power to open the border and the importing of logs must meet several criteria under the supervision of a committee, part of which comprises the National Security Council as its secretary.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai expressed surprise when asked about the matter, saying he had received no report from Gen Charan during the meeting of the Cabinet's committee on social affairs yesterday. The Prime Minister said problems along the borders were common.

He acknowledged that the militant ruling Burmese Government used more aggressive measures in arresting Thais who illegally crossed the border to catch fish in Burma.

The Thai fishery association in Ranong made a petition to the Government that several Thai boats were burnt by the Burmese authorities three days ago.

The Burmese Government should inform Thailand if it is found Thai investors were deceiving local people or breaching the contract, said the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Burma Policy

BK2012150593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai by unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai disagreed with any closing of the entire border with Burma, and said border crossing points should be allowed to open wherever possible. He said such a move would have to be discussed by all concerned authorities first. The prime minister granted an interview to newsmen concerning the proposal by the National Security Council [NSC] to adjust the government's foreign policy.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The NSC proposed that there should be a review of the foreign policy now.

[Chuan] No.

[Reporter] Do you have a report from the NSC?

[Chuan] No. The NSC secretary general was also present at the meeting a little while ago, and there was nothing about that.

[Reporter] What about a conference to be held at the end of the year to review foreign policy?

[Chuan] That is a routine meeting. I have seen no report concerning a policy change; there is nothing as such.

[Reporter] What about Burma and the Interior Ministry's proposal for opening several border crossing points?

[Chuan] As usual, the opening of border points must be approved by all agencies concerned first, and the NSC has its part in the decision making.

[Reporter] Do you personally think that the border should be closed entirely?

[Chuan] I disagree with that. I think we should leave the border crossing points open wherever possible.

[Reporter] Do you think the Interior Ministry's proposal to the cabinet was good?

[Chuan] Before each proposal reached the cabinet, it had already gone through a detailed study by agencies concerned.

[Reporter] Do you think the present foreign policy is suitable?

[Chuan] I think so; there is no problem with it. I was surprised myself when the matter was brought up.

[Reporter] Especially concerning Burma, there have always been reports concerning relations between Thailand and Burma.

[Chuan] It is impossible to expect that there are no problems at all between two countries which share a more than 2,000 kilometer border. Conflicts regarding fishermen and ethnic minorities are just internal affairs. It's the problem of earning a living. We arrest them if it involves clashes or border intrusions. The problem at present came from a belief that the Burmese authorities resorted to violence; there was a protest by fishermen. But concerning ethnic groups, it is an internal problem of Burma. [end recording]

Chuan, Prasong Comment Further

BK2112031593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Dec 93 p A2

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday defended the government's foreign affairs policy as "appropriate" and said he was against the permanent closure of the Thai-Burmese border. Chuan was responding to news reports that the National Security Council (NSC), which he chairs, would meet before the end of the year to review Thailand's foreign policy, especially relating to Burma.

"The government's foreign policy is appropriate. There is no problem. I was surprised by [news reports on] reviewing the policy," he said.

Chuan said the NSC meeting would discuss general affairs, not just those concerning Burma. NSC Secretary-General Gen Charan Kunlawanit had yet to inform him about the policy review. But he said he was against the idea of permanently closing all checkpoints along the Thai-Burmese border.

"Any checkpoint that could be opened should be opened," he said.

News reports claimed the NSC would ask the government to close down all checkpoints to boost Thailand's constructive engagement policy towards Burma.

Chuan said the opening of a checkpoint had to be approved by the Cabinet, and the NSC would jointly consider the matter. He said it was not unusual that Thailand and Burma had certain problems along the border since it was longer than 2,000 km.

"It is impossible not to have problems, including those concerning fishermen and ethnic groups," the prime minister said.

Regarding suggestions that Thai business people supported the ethnic groups to protect their own interests, Chuan said there were good and bad Thai businessmen who invested in foreign countries. The few bad ones could hurt all investors, he added. The prime minister said the Foreign Ministry had asked Burma to inform Thailand of any wrongdoing by Thai business people.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri also defended the government's foreign policy, saying in the past year it had created peace along Thailand's borders, including the Cambodian border.

"The government will continue to implement the policy. There will be no change. [Thai] foreign policy is to create conciliation for peace and not for the use of force. The strength is still there but not aggression or force against anyone," Prasong said.

Asked about the NSC's planned review of foreign policy, he said it was only an "advisory agency".

He said compromise was prevalent around the world now and the Foreign Ministrv had implemented its policy in accordance with the international situation.

"Weakness and compromise for peace are different matters," Prasong said. He said the Thai-Burma border was usually closed except for some checkpoints which were opened for business purposes.

The minister said the ethnic rebels fighting Rangoon were Burma's internal affair. Thailand could help to create reconciliation and peace in its neighbour, but it would not intervene he said. He said that Thailand would expel troops violating Thai sovereignty regardless of whether they were Burmese soldiers or ethnic rebels.

Navy Officer Says Khmer Rouge Arms Cache Moved

BK1912050593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Dec 93 p 1, A2

[Excerpt] All the weapons at the secret depot recently uncovered in Chanthaburi province have been removed, but the stockpile's new location was being kept secret, a top Navy officer confirmed yesterday.

"The weapons have been completely removed by the Army," said Vice Admiral Manat Pinkunlabut, commandant of the Marine Command Force. Manat said he had received an official report about the weapons' removal, but did not know where they were relocated. Their removal was the responsibility of Lt Gen Surayut Chulanon, commander of the Army's Special Warfare Centre in Lop Buri province.

Villagers in Chanthaburi said yesterday they saw more than 100 military and civilian trucks arriving in convoys at the arms warehouse in Makham district on Friday night.

About 120 heavy trucks, some of which had military markings, headed from Chon Buri province to the depot and about 40 others were seen passing Chanthabun's Khao Soi Dao district, the witnesses said.

A NATION reporter saw trucks entering and leaving the arms depot about 9.30 pm on Friday. All of the trucks had their headlights turned off.

The entrance to the depot was heavily guarded by armed men in camouflaged military fatigues.

Residents in Chon Buri yesterday said they spotted a convoy of about 10 military trucks guarded by armed soldiers passing through the provincial town on Sukhumvit Road in the direction to Bangkok about 10 pm on Friday.

The cargo was hidden beneath tightly canvas tarpaulins [as published] and the convoy was led by a car with a flashing beacon. [passage omitted]

Report Outlines Thaicom Satellite Features

BK1912040993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Dec 93 p 19

[Excerpts] Thaicom 1, the first telecommunications satellite of Thailand, was successfully launched yesterday (Saturday) morning by Arianspace's Arian 4 Rocket into "geostationary" orbit about 36,000 kilometres above the earth.

With a minimum service life of 13.5 years, 10 C-band transponders and two KU-band transponders, the satellite's "footprint" will cover Thailand, all of Indochina, Korea, Japan, including Tokyo, and the east coast of China, including Beijing, when it starts operating in February, 1994.

The launching of Thaicom I in French Guiana on Friday (Thai time yesterday) was exactly two years to the date that the satellite was officially named by His Majesty the King.

The project was initiated by the Chatchai Government in 1990 and Chinnawat Computer & Communications Co was awarded a 30-year concession until 2021 on September 11, 1991, by the Anan Government to acquire, launch and operate the satellite. The Chinnawat Group later founded Shinawatra Satellite Co to carry out the project. The company has licences to lease satellite capacity.

Two identical HS-376 satellites were selected from Hughes Aircraft of the United States for the project. The second satellite, Thaicom 2, will be launched in August 1994 to the same location as Thaicom 1, providing a total 24 transponders.

Some of the features of the satellite:

Distribution and relay of TV broadcasts. The main station can transmit signals via the satellite for rebroadcast by stations all over the country. It will also enable live broadcasts of events anywhere in Thailand.

Distribution and relay of radio broadcasts. Thaicom will allow transmission to and from radio stations for news gathering and re-broadcast, especially in remote areas.

Satellite telephony. Thaicom will link many public telephone switching units and provide remote telephone connections using small and inexpensive receiving systems, which will help make communications with remote areas more convenient and economical.

Satellite data communications network and VSAT. Thaicom can link computer networks together effectively with high speed transmission and flexible types of information, including textual data, voice signals and video.

Video conference systems. Thaicom will make possible visual communications, or face-to-face meetings, for people in different locations using video monitors via satellite links. They can also exchange documents through fax and high resolution computer graphics, all in "real time".

Direct-to-home broadcasts. Thaicom will offer direct broadcasts of television programmes from the satellite to viewers' homes without the need for expensive television rebroadcast stations. The service will allow any household in Thailand and Indochina to receive high-quality digital TV channels using the latest digital video compression technology.

Chinnawat Satellite has worked with the Education Ministry to launch a education programme to offer satellite lessons for children in remote areas. [passage omitted]

For Thaicom 1, the annual fee for each C-band transponder is US$1.5 million, and for each KU-band $4.5 million.

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet Receives New Zealand Delegation

BK1912151393 Hanoi VNA in English 1417 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 19—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here yesterday a delegation of agriculture and forestry specialists of New Zealand led by Mr. David McKee, deputy head of the international cooperation department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, which arrived here last week to study possibilities to help Vietnam develop livestock breeding, afforestation and protection of existing forests.

During the reception, Mr. McKee and his party informed the Vietnamese leader of results of the delegation's research conducted in Vietnam over the last week, and made some recommendations on planning and investment policies to help various localities develop livestock breeding, forest planting and protection of existing forests. Mr. McKee reaffirmed that New Zealand [words indistinct] to share [words indistinct] New Zealand of livestock breeding and forest planting to Vietnam and in the immediate time it would send one more [word indistinct] of specialists to Vietnam in order to study a project on livestock breeding and forestry development.

For his part, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet highly appreciated New Zealand's experience and achievements in forest planting, livestock breeding and food processing, and expressed his belief that with friendship cooperation between the two countries, Vietnam would receive [word indistinct] and effective assistance from the New Zealand fraternal people in the fields of livestock breeding and afforestation.

Last week the New Zealand delegation had working sessions with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the Forestry Ministry and the Foreign Ministry and made fact-finding tours of some localities in the [word indistinct], central highlands and the coastal areas in central Vietnam.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Opens Bureau

BK2012070593 Hanoi VNA in English 0633 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 20—The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) opened a bureau in Hanoi on December 18 with Mr. Christopher Kremmer as bureau chief.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the ABC Chairman Mr David Hill, and the Vietnamese assistant foreign minister, Mr. Nguyen Dinh Bin expressed their satisfaction at the further development of the Vietnam-Australia relations and their hope that the ABC bureau would together with its Vietnamese colleagues operate fruitfully.

Also present at the event were General Director of Radio the 'Voice of Vietnam' Phan Quang, General Director of Vietnam Television Pham Khac Lam, and Australian Ambassador to Vietnam Michael John Potts.

Pact With Aid Groups To Continue Land Project

BK2012144393 Hanoi VNA in English 1427 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 20—The Vietnamese Government, the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) today agreed to continue the ongoing AIDAVB/UNDP land management system project 1994.

The extension with USD [U.S. dollars] 460,000 more funded by the Australian Government is a follow-up to the project coded VIE/91/004 on a study to determine the feasibility of introducing a nation-wide land management system in Vietnam, funded by the UNDP and the Western Australian Government.

The extension will include the technical training of Vietnamese staff of the General Department of Land Management (GDLM) and associated key agencies. The training programme will focus on how the GDLM will manage the challenges emerging in Vietnam, such as the news land law, the rapidly increasing land market, the introduction of land valuation to support more equitable land taxation, and the requirement to accelerate the issue of land tenure certificates (LTCs).

This second phase of the project will consist of three pilot projects which will concentrate on the issue of LTCs to land users in various localities, Gia Lam, a densely-populated urban area of Hanoi, Huong Tra, a rural district in the central province of Thua Thien-Hue, and Thu Duc District in Ho Chi Minh City which is being regarded as a developing area on a major city's outskirts.

Further on National Assembly Proceedings

Assembly Issues Ordinances

BK1712072193 Hanoi VNA in English 0543 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 17.—An ordinance on Vietnam's representative offices abroad and an ordinance on marriage and family between Vietnamese and foreigners were made public at a press conference held here yesterday.

The two ordinances, adopted by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Dec. 2 and signed by [words indistinct] on Dec. 1, were introduced by Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen [words indistinct] Minister of Justice Nguyen Dinh Loi, respectively.

The ordinance on Vietnam's representative offices abroad stipulates the functions, tasks and organization of Vietnam's representative offices abroad.

The ordinance consists of 6 chapters and 36 articles. It will take effect on January 1, 1994.

The ordinance on marriage and family between Vietnamese and foreigners is aimed at providing all provisions applicable for their marriage and family relations which have been developing in Vietnam.

The ordinance, which includes 10 chapters and 57 articles, will come into force on March 1, 1994.

Vo Van Kiet Speaks 18 Dec

BK1812155993 Hanoi VNA in English 1520 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 18.—Prime Minister [P.M.] Vo Van Kiet at the current 4th session of National Assembly today spoke about corruption and smuggling and put forth more effective preventive measures.

The prime minister said that the situation has become so serious that it should be prevented and driven back by the efforts of the government and active participation of the whole society. Corruption, smuggling and extravagance relate to other, so Vo Van Kiet said large campaign [words indistinct] with party and state office all levels and branches of activities from the central to local units, should practice thrift and control spendings in celebrations, meetings, and receptions and so on. He asked National Assembly offices to strictly supervise those activities and to call upon the entire people to practise thrift and industriously build the country. He promised that the government would promulgate detailed guidance on the matter.

He said: 'In the fight against smuggling the government continues summing up experience to take effective measures to solve the question. State offices and employees who involved in corruption and smuggling have not been dealt with properly. In the coming two years (1994-1995), legal measures should be accelerated with regards to cases of corruption and smuggling and administrative penalties should be minimized. Confiscation of public property involved in corruption and smuggling cases should be paid great attention'.

P.M. Kiet also asked the National Assembly to take an occasional solution in order to guide functional branches and mobilize the state apparatus to take part in the battle against corruption and smuggling with a view to get back confidence in the party and the state from the people.

The same day, a number of ministers answered the deputies' questions.

Group Discussions Held 20 Dec

BK2112054193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Passages in boldface recorded]

[Summary] "Dear friends: Today the National Assembly held group discussions. In the morning, the National Assembly deputies discussed a draft law on environment protection. In the afternoon, they discussed a draft law on business bankruptcy." You, friends, are invited to listen to the following report on the National Assembly's group discussions on the draft law on environmental protection:

"The National Assembly reserved the whole morning session for deputies to discuss the draft law on environmental protection. The general views expressed by almost all the deputies at their group discussions asserted the need to promptly promulgate an environment law. Many deputies agreed with the goals of the draft law, namely, to prevent and overcome bad consequences caused by human beings and nature; and to rationally regulate the exploitation and use of the environment in support of long-term national construction."

Deputies contributed their views on every single chapter of the draft law. A Kien Giang Province deputy said the contents of the draft law were too general, especially with those measures to deal with environment violations. A Ho Chi Minh city deputy asked that the phrase "The Right to Live in a Healthy Environment Is a Human Right" be added to the preamble.

"The feasibility of this law was fervently discussed by the deputies. Many of them maintained that to make it possible for the law on environmental protection to enter into life, we should delegate localities with more powers, set up a government agency to provide guidance for environmental protection activities, and draw up clear-cut measures to deal with environment law violations."

Deputies from Minh Hai, Kien Giang, Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh City said environmental pollution in urban areas is now relatively grave due to the presence of many heaps of garbage and the poor maintenance of public toilets.

Agriculturally, deputies from Ha Tay, Hoa Binh, Vinh Phu, and An Giang Provinces also complained about the indiscrimate use of insecticide by peasants, and this, according to them, has adversely affected livestocks and food products. Some deputies said overuse of fertilizer and insecticide has resulted in the extinction of almost all of useful creatures in ricefields such as frogs, crabs, and mollusks. A deputy denounced a paint factory in Ha Tay for pouring its industrial waste into the Song Nghe River, polluting it and killing fish in its hatcheries.

Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province Deputy Do Quoc Hung said:

[Do Quoc Hung] **"I think it is very necessary to promulgate this law, especially in the current circumstance. I agree with the proposal that we call this law the law on environmental protection."**

Recommending measures to overcome the state of environmental pollution, Kien Giang Province Deputy Nguyen Duc Thang said:

[Nguyen Duc Thang] **"In the Mekong River Delta, we should do away with the presence of latrines built along irrigation canals and ditches if we want to keep our environment clean and beautiful."**

"Deputies from Ha Tay and Hoa Binh Provinces stated that while our country is stepping up the industrial process and broadening cooperation with foreign countries, the prompt promulgation of a law on environmental protection is very necessary." Ha Tay Province Deputy Nguyen Phuc Dinh said:

[Nguyen Phuc Dinh] **"It is very necessary for the fourth session of the Ninth National Assembly to pass the law on environmental protection. This is because in national industrialization, we must specify which chemicals are toxic and harmful to health and which are not."**

Dear friends: This afternoon, the National Assembly held group discussions on the draft law on business bankruptcy.

Vo Van Kiet on National Vaccination Campaign

BK2012135193 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1215 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] In its 17 December issue, NHAN DAN carries an appeal by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet at a ceremony to launch a national vaccination campaign against polio and tetanus for chidren. The appeal says that the child vaccination work is a very important part of our activities for the protection and care of our people's health.

After reviewing vaccination activities in the past five years, the appeal continues:

On behalf of the government, I heartily welcome the governments at all levels, people in the entire country, ministries, and mass organizations—especially the public health sector, the Vietnam Women's Union, and the Red Cross Society—for their great efforts in carrying out this significant campaign. I thank all international organizations and foreign governments, especially UNICIEF and WHO, for their efficient assistance in this national program.

This campaign is not carried out on a large scale, but it also has a special importance to ensure good health for our young generations who will bear the responsibility of bringing beauty to our country and happiness to our people. In that meaning, the elimination of polio and tetanus in infants and the prevention of blindness in children should be carried out thoroughly with the best quality.

I urge the patriots in the entire country, especially mothers living in mountainous and isolated areas, to actively take part in this campaign by giving their children the full course of vaccination. This is not only a sentimental action, but also an obligation of every family to their children. We will be resolute in not letting our children become disabled for life because of our lack of care. The government at all levels must heighten its responsibility in providing health care to the people and directly supervise this vaccination campaign. The public health sector is carrying the main responsibility in providing speciality equipment to ensure the success of this campaign with good quality and results.

I suggest that the Vietnam Women's Union, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the Red Cross Society, the Peasants Association, the Vietnam General Federation of Trade Unions, and other organizations actively encourage mothers to give vaccinations to their children.

The mass media agencies will widely propagandize so that everybody can understand and enthusiastically partake in this campaign. I suggest that national and international organizations, especially UNICEF and WHO, continue providing assistance to the annual vaccination campaign for Vietnamese children's health and for Vietnamese people's happiness.

President Le Duc Anh Meets Foreign Physicists

BK1712144993 Hanoi VNA in English 1442 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 17—President Le Duc Anh received here today particle physicists and astrophysicists from 23 countries who are gathering here for a current international conference.

The guests informed the Vietnamese leader of their activities during the conference and their views exchange with their Vietnamese colleagues on further strengthening mutual assistance in the field of science, in general and in physics, in particular.

President Le Duc Anh for his part hailed the foreign delegates to the conference. He said he hoped that the success of the conference would not only further promote the cooperation between the Vietnamese scientists and their colleagues in the world, but also assist Vietnam develop technologies and sciences.

Also present at the reception were Professor and Academician Nguyen Van Hieu, director of the Vietnam National Centre for Natural Science and Technology and Prof. Hoang Dinh Tu, head of the Commission for Science and Education.

Phan Van Khai Visits Ha Tinh, Nghe An Provinces

BK2012111393 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1215 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] From 12 to 14 December, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai paid a working visit to Ha Tinh and Nghe An Provinces.

In Ha Tinh, the deputy prime minister visited Xuan Hai Port. While there, the Xuan Hoi village party committee and people's committee reported to him on improving local agricultural and aquacultural production. He visited a modern technology tile production factory in Hong Linh town and a private biological fertilizer production enterprise in Thach Ha town. He held a working session with the Huong Khe District people's committee, visited several peasant families in the Districts of Huong Khe and Thach Ha, and met with managers of state and non-state economic units of Ha Tinh Province.

At the working session with the provincial party standing committee and people's committee, he appraised the outstanding provincial efforts in recent years to create speedy socioeconomic progress. The province has created many efficient production models in all fields of industry, agriculture, forestry, and aquaculture. These models are in conformity with the party's renovation line and local conditions. He suggested that local leaders draw more experiences from their economic management before applying them widely in the province.

In Nghe An Province, after visiting Cua Lo Port, the deputy prime minister visited the home town of Uncle Ho's grandfather and lighted incense sticks at his memorial house in Kim Lien village.

After listening to a socioeconomic development report presented by Nghe An provincial leaders, he commended the province on its agricultural production, medical and education service, and efforts to improve the situation in the mountainous area. He also pointed out Nghe An's weaknesses in its economic structure, production development rate, import-export activities, and budget management. He said the province needs to correctly evaluate its situation and learn to create new socioeconomic development steps as soon as possible.

Nguyen Duc Binh Delivers Speech on Culture

BK2012102993 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 24 Nov 93 pp 1, 3

[Speech by Nguyen Duc Binh, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, "at a symposium held to mark the 50th anniversary of Vietnam's cultural platform"; place and date not given]

[Text] Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi cannot attend this symposium because he is busy with his work. He, however, wishes our symposium success.

I would like to offer some of my inspiring ideas for your discussion.

Our cultural platform has had a widespread impact on the cultural life of the nation over the past 50 years. This platform has been discussed at various seminars on several occasions and has been analyzed by various newspapers and taught at schools. Many authors have discussed in detail various historical events. They have also repeatedly discussed the meaning of what is the nation, what is science, and what is the general public. I hope that today's symposium will again debate this platform with a new vision in order to arrive at new conceptions and discoveries and consider the large concentration of wisdom from the delegates from various cultural circles.

I think that we can thoroughly understand the cultural platform's historic significance and value by placing ourselves in the situation when this platform was conceived. Only by recalling the oppressed life of our people under Japanese fascism and French domination and by realizing the crisis and deadlocked situation of the intelligentsia during the 1941-45 period can we thoroughly understand the important role of the cultural platform as the historic turning point of the struggle for national liberation.

The cultural platform profoundly analyzes developments of the situation and points out the tasks at that time on the cultural front and in light of Marxism-Leninism. Those compelling arguments at that time were so strong that they could wake up and massively rally the Vietnamese intelligentsia in the cause of national salvation under the party banner.

Today, many cultural concepts, scientific categories, and watchwords mentioned in the 1993 cultural platform have been translated into reality. They have become so familiar to everyone. Fifty years ago, the cultural platform was the peak of contemporary wisdom, a sharp assessment of the situation, a scientific forecast of the future, and a tremendous moral strength needed by the country.

Looking back over the past 50 years, you, comrades, should objectively evaluate the cultural achievements scored by Vietnam in the light of the culural platform and of the party's cultural policy.

The ideals for independence, freedom, and socialism became a raison d'etre that influenced the thinking, emotions, and actions of our people.

A new culture under a new regime was taking shape and was increasingly flourishing in various fields—educational, scientific, lifestyle, ethical, and social.

A new literature and art sector was formed in the flame of the two miraculous wars of resistance against the French and then the Americans. Many valuable cultural works were also created, which are reflective of a splendid and glorious era of our nation.

A relatively powerful contingent of intellectuals steeled themselves in combat, labor, and indoctrination and contributed greatly to the cause of national liberation and cultural development. Numerous intellectuals, scientists, writers, and artists lived and fought alongside our troops. They sacrified their lives bravely in the battlefield. Our nation will forever remember the bright examples of sacrifice from the Vietnamese cultural circles for the great national cause.

Besides these great contributions, the cultural platform is not without inevitable historic constraints. With a few pages of succinct words, the cultural platform can in no way discuss in detail all cultural problems nor can it envisage those problems now facing us.

For the sake of a culture characterized by its national identity, the party suggests that cultural circles hold discussions to satisfactorily resolve the problems which are arising today and which will arise tomorrow.

History shows that culture is always a vital condition of the nation. It is not a coincidence that Nguyen Trai said in his Declaration of the Pacification of the Chinese Wu Invaders that "our Great Dai Viet [now known as Vietnam] nation has an age-old culture." He said the following things when affirming the cultural strength in the war for national liberation: "Using great cause to defeat brutality and using human kindness to prevail over violence."

History attests to the fact that during our nation's most difficult time, culture is always a strength capable of generating the limitless potential of our people in terms of wisdom, talent, emotion, and determination.

The above shows that our party is correct to have given culture a very important position from the time of the August Revolution.

However, situations at home and abroad have changed considerably during the past 50 years. Today's culture is not the same as that of five decades ago.

We have seen dramatic changes in the social life of the world during the last decades of the 20th century. Cultural achievements have entered the limelight in society.

Various modern scientific-technological innovations have been applied in various forms to production, the people's life, and social activities. Modern industries enable mankind to optimally exploit their capabilities to resolve various pressing issues, which befall the people of the world and each nation.

It is necessary to say, however, that scientific-technological development is but part and parcel of cultural development. This is because science and technology alone cannot resolve all issues related to mankind. It needs contributions from other social activities, including culture, in a broader sense.

In fact, culture has infiltrated into all fields including the economic, political, and social domains as well as in the people's daily life and social activities. Today, people say: "Culture is the key to development."

All countries presently treat efforts to enhance economic growth as a priority task. Whereas mankind are actors that effect economic changes, culture is the yardstick to measure mankind's capability. We cannot talk about economic growth without paying attention to culture, to the people's intelligence, to the quality of eduction, and to scientific-technological developments. As we strive for economic growth, we must also carry other other development programs—including social development. We cannot succeed in socioeconomic development if we do not have lofty ideals and value humanism and social ethics.

In its Sixth and Seventh National Congresses, our party set and implemented comprehensive renovative lines and scored very significant achievements. This created prerequisites for a new era of quicker and more vigorous development to build socialism and to attain industrialization and modernization.

Indeed, culture plays a very significant role in the implementation of this great mission.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Vietnam's cultural platform, I think that it is a good opportunity for various cultural agencies to review their tasks under the spirit of the party Central Committee's fourth plenum resolution. This will enable us to design new tasks to meet the requirements of our nation in the new stage.

It is necessary to say that culture has a very vast boundary. The 1943 cultural platform stresses only three key areas: Concept, education, and art. We understand that, at present, culture covers more areas than this.

It is not enough to refer only to literature and art when we talk about culture. Our party stresses the significance of this concept and asks all cultural agencies to contribute to unifying the people's concept in implementing the party lines and policies in order to build and defense the nation in accordance with the socialist orientation. We should stress that cultural work must be able to create a correct concept, restore the people's confidence, and foster the revolutionary impetus and optimistic spirit of the people in their efforts to build the nation. To achieve this goal, the cultural sector must continue to firmly grasp and creatively apply Marxism-Leninism to analyze situations and predict future events while coordinating with the party to formulate and perfect policies on socioeconomic and cultural development.

The platform stresses the education domain. This should include various sciences including natural science, technology, social science, and humanity.

In an era where mankind's intelligence is developing in an unprecedented manner, we must strive to catch up with such developments and rationally apply them in a way that suits our unique conditions and the Vietnamese people. This will help us score success in national development. As a result, it is imperative for the scientific and education sectors to strive to make greater efforts to urgently improve and strengthen education in science and technology.

Many complicated events have occured on a global scale in the social domain. As optimistic people, we are convinced that a bright future for mankind will come, that is the day when oppression and subjugation exist no more. That is the day when men extend love and care for each other, care for their collective, national community, and society—the day that the freedom and happiness of each individual is taken into account. This is the aspiration of the laboring people. It is the goal that Marx, Lenin, and Ho Chi Minh did their best to achieve in their lives. It is the socialist path that will lead mankind to this goal. It is not an illusion, because according to the law and history of mankind, that day eventually will come.

Thanks to the renovation line, the market mechanism is creating conditions and ways and means for national development. It has brought about great achievements and will continue to open many bright prospects for economic growth. Nonetheless, viewed from another angle, the market mechanism also displays many negative phenomena, which should not be treated slightly, especially on the cultural front.

The market mechanism encourages initiative, imagination, research, dynamic thinking, and creativeness via material benefits. These are positive factors. Nonetheless, the pursuit of selfish interests often leads to illegal business activities, corruption, smuggling, fraud, and the desire to put individual and family interests above the interests of the collectives and society.

Our society and state encourage people legally and legitimately to enrich themselves. They, however, condemn those who enrich themselves illegally and illegitimately, who regard money as the most valuable thing, who seek pleasures, or who lead a life in luxury and extravagance without having pity for their fellow men. All of these bad practices are eroding our people's good traditions, moral ethics, healthy lifestyle, and fine sentiments. These are burning problems that our national culture is facing at present. These issues need to be analyzed and resolved based on philosophical, sociological, psychological, and ethical principles.

The reciprocal interaction between economic and cultural activities helps bring about growth and progress in society. The goals of "making the people rich and the nation powerful and bringing about civilization in society" call for efforts to combine economic, social, and cultural factors. It is impossible to build a civilized society based on an economically poor and backward economy. Likewise, if a society has a high economic growth rate but is deficient in cultural development, it cannot be said that progress has been made by that society. The civilization of a society cannot be gauged only through its high economic growth rate and abundant material life. It must be gauged through the good relations between people, justice, democracy, and a rich and lofty spiritual life. That civilization must be marked by the dignity, wisdom, and morality of people and by a humanistic attitude centered on relations between men and society, nature, and people themselves.

How can we ensure harmony between economic growth and cultural development in our society so that cultural development will not impede economic growth and economic growth will not undermine cultural development? How can we avoid irreconcilable conflicts between the market economy and the cultural, spiritual, and moral norms of our society? I believe that those are very fundamental issues at present and am hopeful that our scientists will make efforts to study them and suggest solutions. I also deem it necessary to deal with one more important point as follows: Our efforts to develop the market economy should go hand in hand with our endeavors to broaden our relations with the outside world. This is an indispensable step based on the strategic concept of combining the national strength with the strength of the times. Nowadays, no nation can live separately from the world. Generally speaking, our party, state, and people try by all means to learn from the economic, scientific, technological, and cultural achievements in the world. As we have often said, we should be aware of both good and bad winds when opening our doors. Since ancient times, Vietnam has always opened its doors to welcome winds from the four directions, accepting what is good and appropriate and rejecting what is bad and inappropriate. In the end, we have retained our special characteristics. We should not forget that lesson, given the present situation. If we lose our national traits, we will lose our culture and as such, we will lose our nation. This is particularly true when it comes to the arts.

In recent years, the arts (which, generally speaking, include literature and arts) have recorded many achievements and have become richer and more diversified in terms of content, themes, forms of presentation, and ways of expression.

In the past, our entire people had to cope with the biggest, most powerful, and cruelest enemies to ensure national survival. Under such circumstances, each citizen directed his/her attention to the national cause, fighting stalwartly and having absolute confidence in the common victory of the nation. These sentiments constitute the fine quality of the Vietnamese people's minds and souls. The arts, then aimed at reflecting our people's heroic deeds and lofty aspirations for national liberation, gave birth to many works of great value, which, altogether, can be regarded as a mirror to reflect the Vietnamese people's hearts and souls. That mirror will continue to shine brilliantly forever in the hearts and minds of countless future generations.

During the new stage, the party intends to bring the intelligence, capability, and creativity of the people into full play. It is necessary to state that all of the party and state lines and policies on national defense and construction are aimed at making the people happy, giving them freedom, and respecting the wishes and legitimate aspirations of individuals. This does not mean that we place individual interests above those of the community. In fact, we cannot accept the tendency toward selfishness arising from individual interests, especially the tendency to satisfy mediocre and licentious desires. Moreover, we must not accept decadent culture in any form or under any circumstances. I believe that the beauty of art does not depend on whether it satisfies men's desires, especially backward and unhealthy tastes. Successful only enjoy their work when it inspires great concepts and sentiments among the audience while enhancing the spirit, impetus, and quality of its readers, listeners, or viewers.

In addition to the issues of concept, education, and art—as stipulated in the last party cultural platform—I would like to add the issue of lifestyle. It can be said that the cultural platform at that stage concentrated on the struggle for national salvation and did not mention anything about the people's lifestyle. After our victory in the August Revolution, however, Uncle Ho promptly stressed the task of building a new cultural life. Since then our party has attached importance to this issue. The Ministry of Culture has, over past decades, launched a movement to build a new and cultured family and a civilized lifestyle. It has made notable achievements in this regard. In the process of developing the current market economic system, however, many pressing issues have emerged in daily life. These include issues relating to pragmatic lifestyles, social disciplines, relations between wards and villages, family life, and so forth. At the same time, some people are trying to restore clan connections; promote ancestor worship; organize celebrations of various ritual functions, such as marriages and funerals; and pay special attention to family heritage, tombs, churches, and so forth. We should study these practices to determine which ones have a positive impact and which ones have negative or backward side effects.

We should also review the rules and procedures regarding family activities and social contacts to determine which ones should be abolished, maintained, revised, or supplemented. I suggest that cultural agencies—especially the Ministry of Culture and Information—formulate measures to build effectively a civilized lifestyle, stressing nationalism and eliminating those features that retard development and human civilization.

As culture currently plays a very important role in the process of developing nations and mankind, the position of intellectuals should be enhanced accordingly.

The Vietnamese people love scholarship naturally and respect intellectuals. Since the nation's founding, our intelligentsia has played an active role in accelerating the development of social life. Intellectuals have participated in cultural, educational, artistic, scientific-technological, military, diplomatic, and state management activities from the central down to the grassroots levels.

Our party understands that creative freedom accelerates cultural development and is a requirement for enhancing the vitality of intellectuals. A nation's intelligence—as well as that of individuals—must be built from the bottom to the top, or from modest to sophisticated concepts. This is the process of learning from mistakes to realize the truth. There is currently disagreement between cultural workers and intellectuals. This is a natural and healthy phenomena. Right and wrong will be argued through frank and constructive discussions, while reality will determine the final result.

Our nation's lofty objective is to unite intellectuals who nurture a determination to build the country in a creative manner.

It can be said that, with the exception of a handful of men, most Vietnamese intellectuals at home and abroad are willing to work for our nation's future and our people's happiness. With the spirit of democracy and a high sense of responsibility in promoting culture and scientific-technological innovations, our intellectuals always respect one another while—together with people throughout the country—striving to develop a healthy national culture. In this way they are contributing toward leading our country in a quick and firm advance along its chosen path.

Our party's cultural platform has fulfilled its brilliant mission over the past 50 years. I earnestly hope that you comrades will contribute more valuable ideas at this seminar to help develop and perfect the party lines and policies on culture, thereby ushering in a new stage of development in Vietnamese culture and ever-greater achievements.

Doan Khue Writes Article on National Defense

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[Article by Senior General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau and minister of national defense: "Continuing To Renovate National Defense Process in Order To Contribute to Safeguarding National Independence and Sovereignty and Maintaining Political Stability in Support of National Construction and Development"]

[Text] The resolutions of the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and the CPV Central Committee's Third Plenum on the national defense and security tasks point out that our country, while enjoying great opportunities in national construction and development, is facing tough challenges. Hostile forces are attempting to eradicate socialism and our people's revolutionary gains. Because of this, a very heavy duty has arisen for our entire party, army, and people. Now, more than ever before, we should draw up correct and flexible policies and lines so as to fully exploit our advantages and minimize our difficulties and obstacles. This we must do if we are to promote socioeconomic development, consolidate our national defense and security strengths, create a stable environment for constant development, advance the country along the socialist path, and achieve the goals of building a prosperous people, a powerful country, and a civilized and equitable society. This is a pressing and very important requirement of our party leadership. It is precisely due to this that, since the Seventh Party Congress, the CPV Central Committee has repeatedly issued many topical resolutions aimed at resolving the most pressing socioeconomic, national defense, and security, and diplomatic issues. After only a short period of time, all the party's policies and resolutions have been transformed into substantive actions by the masses in their daily life and into the activities of various sectors, echelons, and localities. Many new, relatively comprehensive achievements have been steadily recorded. Regarding the national defense task in particular, we have promptly readjusted our strategy for the disposition and organization of forces, for building the people's armed forces, and for establishing the all-people national defense system and the people's war system on a national scale and in various sensitive areas. Efforts to link the economy with national defense and national defense with security have also been made and encouraging results have been achieved.

To correctly evaluate the results and great efforts made by our entire party, army, and people in national defense and security over the past three years, we need to be thoroughly aware of all the difficulties and complexities in the international and domestic situation that have directly affected the destiny of our country and socialism. After the upheavals and chaos in a number of East European countries and in the Soviet Union, we have lost a very important source of international aid. Our army now has nobody to rely on for the supply of military equipment. Meanwhile, antisocialist forces regard this as an unprecedented opportunity to eradicate socialism in Vietnam. They have intensified their activities under their "peaceful evolution" strategy aimed at fomenting rebellion and subversion from the inside. In reality, over the past three years they have constantly attacked us from various directions and in different areas, especially in the political and ideological area. Under the democratic and human rights label, they are striving to blacken socialism, dig into our mistakes, and through a number of our degraded and deviate party cadres and members, speak ill of and discredit the leading role of our party. They hope that with these activities, they will be able to rally and instigate the masses to demand the establishment of the system of pluralism and multi-opposition parties. Assisted by imperialist forces, overseas reactionaries are seeking to establish contact with reactionary elements inside the country in order to oppose and sabotage us. They have even attempted to send a number of armed people to disturb our public order and security, cause instablity, and undermine our people's renovation process. The enemy has thus far failed in their attempts. Far from being in a state of collapse, Vietnam has successfully maintained its political stability and has achieved increasingly steady economic growth. Vietnam's position in the world arena has been consolidated and improved. On the national defense and security front in particular, we have deployed many policies and have achieved results in various aspects, thus contributing greatly to maintaining political stability and increasing the national defense strength.

The greatest success of our national defense cause over the past three years rests in the fact that we have renovated the methods and contents of our plan to build and make the all-people's national defense system, the people's armed forces, and the people's war machinery suitable for the new conditions and requirements of the current task of defending the Fatherland. We have thoroughly combined our socioeconomic development efforts with our endeavors to consolidate national defense capabilities, closely linking national defense with national security, and henceforth, have linked efforts to protect the Fatherland with attempts to defend the socialist regime, the administration, and the party's leadership role. The most prominent success of the movement for national defense and security can be found in the implementation of policies on building provinces and cities into firm and strong defense areas. Thanks to well-defined contents and practical measures, all localities have obtained concrete results from the implementation of their local defense plans. To date, except for a number of provinces which have undergone recent redelineation of their administrative boundaries, most of the provinces and cities under the direct management of the central government have formulated basic local defense plans and have put them into practice. Following rehearsals at provincial and city levels, all localities have conducted practices at precinct, district, ward, and village levels. The results obtained from those exercises indicate that the mechanism of party leadership over national defense and the policies, orientations, and contents of local defense building are completely correct, effective, and capable of making use of the strength of our entire people to consolidate national defense capabilities at the grassroots level and set up national defense networks in each locality and the country as a whole. In particular, those exercises have helped stir up the masses' revolutionary impetus, uphold everyone's vigilance against the enemy's dark schemes and maneuvers, and consolidate our people's confidence in the cause of defending the socialist Fatherland. The most obvious results from the exercises at wards and villages can be seen through the combined efforts to resolve local problems, firmly maintain security and order, ensure political stability, and create favorable conditions for economic development while simultaneously applying different contingency plans to cope with all eventualities.

We have also recorded fine results from our endeavors to build and consolidate our local armed forces and militia and self-defense forces. To date, within the framework of the policy on improving overall quality—which attaches importance to political quality and calls for a reduction in force to conform with each locality's actual budget allocations and combat requirements—our militia and self-defense forces have been rearranged into mobile and fixed units, which, after having undergone training, have operated on a regular basis and have achieved practical results from the drive to ensure political stability at grassroots installations.

Regarding the tasks of building a reserve force and of making arrangements for the national economy to provide combat support services, we have just started to work toward that goal and still lack experience. Nonetheless, thanks to close directions and constant efforts to derive experiences, preliminary yet important results have also been recorded in this domain. All localities have completed reservist registration and management procedures according to the requirements set by higher echelons. Many localities have conducted training sessions and alert drills on an experimental basis and have recorded outstanding results both in terms of attendance and timeliness, and reserve units have all displayed the same high training quality as regular units. Recently, we have derived many experiences from 10 years of building our reserve force. Besides the strongpoints, we have also pointed out many shortcomings. These experiences and shortcomings are precious lessons for us to enable us to continue making the building of the reserve force a routine work and a great success in the days ahead.

In the process of building and consolidating national defense and security at the grass-roots level, we have attached importance to ideological and mass mobilization work in order to create a political base for the people at large. Political education has helped the people recognize the enemy's schemes and tactics against our country while enabling them to grasp firmly our party and state renovation policies. This has helped enhance the people's confidence in the party's leadership and encouraged them to adhere to the correct path chosen by our party, Uncle Ho, and the people. In carrying out political and ideological education among the people, we have attached much importance to educating the youth, students, and pupils in the tradition of patriotism, love for socialism, and national defense awareness to protect the fatherland. Regarding this issue, the Ministry of National Defense has closely coordinated with the Ministry of Education and Training in drafting and revising military training programs at various schools. These programs have been implemented and have achieved satisfactory results. In reviewing achievements in national defense work in localities and grass-roots units, we realize that our party lines and policies are correct—especially the party Central Committee Political Bureau's Resolution No. 02 on implementing the mechanism in which the party leads, the administration executes work, and the military agency assumes the staff function. This mechanism has brought about satisfactory results in national defense work. It has also clearly defined the responsibility of various echelons of party committees and the administration in supervising and implementing military work in localities. This has helped sectors and mass organizations understand the need to participate in building the universal national defense system and the people's armed forces at the grass-roots level. Through implementation of this mechanism, we can see that the people's national defense awareness has been enhanced. While realizing that their key task is to develop the socioeconomic situation, various sectors and localities have consistently carried out national defense and security work.

Regarding the task of building the Army in accordance with the revolutionary orientation to make it a seasoned, standard, and modern army, we have applied many uniform lines and key measures and have made significant achievements. While striving to build the reserve forces and consolidate the comprehensive strength of the militia and self-defense force, we have continued to streamline our regular Army and reorganize its forces, organization, and personnel to suit our present capability and military operations. Education and training in the Army has been renovated both in content and method, remarkably enhancing the quality of training. Various Army units have seriously implemented the objectives of comprehensively building strong regiments and divisions. They have made initial but very encouraging achievements. Many units have substantially reduced the number of desertions and effectively prevented violations of Army discipline. Special attention has been paid to political and ideological education as well as efforts to enhance the revolutionary background of the Army, especially its officers. In the process of building the Army, we have firmly grasped the orientation of making the Army politically and militarily strong while strengthening flesh-and-blood relations between the Army and the people. For this reason, despite the enemy's continual psychological warfare and the numerous difficulties and ordeals in building and defending the socialist fatherland, our Army has firmly maintained its position, pledged its confidence in the party leadership, adhered to the socialist path, and consistently protected the interests of the party and nation. Our Army is obviously a reliable force entrusted with the task of protecting the party, our system, and the people. It has contributed positively and effectively to firmly maintaining the nation's political stability.

The task of providing training and indoctrination for troops has undergone many changes. We have trained our troops in the traditional tactics of people's warfare to suit our terrain, our present equipment, and the equipment we will have in the future. These are the tactics of using a small force to fight a larger one, and using rudimentary equipment to defeat an enemy with more sophisticated equipment. The results of training reforms—seen in many military drills conducted by various Army divisions—show that the troops' combat effectiveness has improved. Apart from carrying out training reforms, we have also concentrated considerably on conducting research into the development of military arts to suit the conditions and requirements of a people's war for national defense. The results of this research have helped to resolve various problems in detachment-level combat and tactical arts. We have improved the art of combat for the three categories of forces in different defense areas. Generally speaking, through research in military arts and sciences, we have been able to create a foundation for the continued development of the art of people's war for national defense in the new stage.

Finally, we should take note of the great efforts made by the Army and the people to resolve the armed forces' equipment problems. This issue has been carried out harmoniously in all three directions, especially in the preservation and maintenance of existing equipment. This very difficult and complex task requires great investment in terms of operating funds and technical labor. Through the efforts of the entire Army, and under the motto "Both higher and lower echelons must display a sense of responsibility," we have essentially achieved various targets and requirements. Along with preservation and maintenance, we have carried out various scientific and technical research tasks aimed at manufacturing equipment and parts used for repairing and upgrading broken or scarce equipment. As for unused or obsolete weapons and equipment, we have studied how to improvise in order to maximize their use. The third direction, characterized by its basic and long-term qualities, is studying the experimental production of new equipment. This very important task requires scientists and technicians nationwide to build a national defense industry gradually with the aim of providing the armed forces with the most basic weapons and military hardware.

In summary, over the past nearly three years, by renovating the national defense process in accordance with the spirit of Seventh Party Congress resolution, we have attained initial but very important results. We must, however, make a greater effort, given our current national defense requirements. Our people's renovation process is being carried out in a satisfactory and favorable way. But the enemy's schemes and tricks against our country and our socialist regime remain unchanged. Domestically, there are still destabilizing factors that we cannot ignore. Therefore, to maintain firm political stability and renovate and develop the country—in addition to concentrating on socioeconomic development—we must continue to consolidate national defense and security and create integrated political, economic, military, and diplomatic strengths in order to cope with all contingencies.

On the basis of those achievements already made, we must continue to renovate our national defense in order to develop the strength of the entire country and entire people in the cause of national defense. To achieve this aim, we must continue to ensure that our entire party, Army, and people remain thoroughly aware of the policy of people's warfare and the policy of building a universal national defense and the people's armed forces.

In the future, providing political and ideological indoctrination and instilling a sense of national defense in the entire people must be given top priority. This will make the people confident in the victory of socialism and their own potential and strengths while determining the each citizen's duty—especially youths and students—in national defense.

Education requires further reforms, both in content and form, to become more efficient and suitable for everyone. As for the armed forces, we must pay attention to improving political knowledge to maintain and develop the fine tradition of Uncle Ho's Army, deserving his appraisal: "Loyal to the country, filial to the people, and ready to fight and sacrifice for the fatherland's independence and freedom and for socialism. Accomplishing all duties, overcoming all difficulties, and defeating all enemies."

In the current stage—besides paying attention to political and ideological education—it is necessary to institutionalize content, requirements, and responsibilities regarding the construction of universal national defense and the people's armed forces in all echelons, levels, and localities. This is the only way to develop a legal foundation to mobilize the strengths of all economic sectors and the entire people to undertake national protection and implement social justice on the basis of the rights and obligations of all citizens.

In order to consolidate our national defense, we have to solve these three fundamental issues in a satisfactory manner:

1. We must continue to perfect the process of making provinces and cities strong defensive areas. Every province and city needs to address this issue in its general planning for socioeconomic development and the consolidation of national defense at each echelon and level. They must always thoroughly understand the formula of closely associating the economy with national defense and national defense with security to achieve the goal of making the people rich and the nation strong.

In building defense, we must pay attention to three goals: building the defense method, building the local armed forces (including regular forces and reserves), and building a political force among the public. We must turn every village into a perfect stronghold so that every village, district, and precinct can defend itself, solve problems within its area, and prevent problems from spreading to other areas. When every village, district, precinct, province, and city is strong, the entire country will definitely be strong. And that is the main purpose of building local defense areas. Moreover, ministries and departments at the central level need to spend time studying and achieving a thorough understanding of the party and state resolutions and directives on building local defense areas. This is so they can achieve unity in their comprehension before setting up plans to carry out tasks in their own departments and ministries.

In the present situation, all levels, echelons, and localities—especially the grass roots—must be very active in watching for and exposing the hostile forces' conspiracies and tricks of "peaceful evolution" and violent overthrow. They must heighten the public's revolutionary vigilance, tradition of being stubborn and indomitable, and love for the nation and socialism. We have to inspire patriotism and a spirit of self-reliance in everyone. We have to cling firmly and totally rely on the people in our national defense and protection undertakings.

We must develop the people's creativity in national defense and in building our armed forces. When the people realize their responsibility, they will develop their capacity and creativity to fight the enemy and invent weapons to protect their homeland and their country. This is an important factor and a great source of strength in universal national defense and the people's war to protect our fatherland.

2. We must continue studying in an effort to develop and perfect the art of people's war for the protection of our fatherland in the new situation. This is a very difficult issue. It requires the assignment of cadres with a high level of experience and knowledge. First, we need to review previous wars. At the same time, we have to study recent international conflicts. We can then draw useful lessons to compliment and develop our combat skills and military arts.

We need to combine scientific research on the military arts closely with our studies to develop military technology. That means we have to study our combat methods, taking into consideration the current state of our military equipment. At the same time, research into the improvement and production of new equipment must be conducted to serve our military strategy. This is the only way we can develop the strengths of our rudimentary and relatively modern weapons to defeat our enemies with more advanced weapons. The fundamental and long-term issue is heightening the spirit of independence, self-reliance, and positive creativity to combine our existing equipment with Vietnam's unique methods of traditional combat.

We must pay particular attention to understanding our enemies. We must understand our opponents' characteristics, strategies, and fighting techniques in how they use their weapons and equipment, as well as their armed forces' methods of combat. On that basis, we can outline appropriate fighting measures.

All state organs must develop measures to organize the armed forces. They must pay proper respect to all three forces, and the militia must be widely organized to serve as the core force for the entire people to fight the enemy. That is the strength of a people's war, which no enemy and no modern weapon can win.

3. Building a national defense industry is an urgent and long-term demand. In the current international situation, we cannot rely on foreign countries to equip our troops. We must gradually move to a stage where we can produce the most fundamental weapons and equipment for our troops. Although we already have some military factories, their production technology is old and not uniform. Moreover, our scientific and technological cadres are not good enough to produce new weapons.

In order to form a complete defense industry, we must conduct appropriate general planning with proper development steps. We have to organize outstanding scientists and technicians in the country to build a defense industry. Of course, the state must reserve suitable funds for this important task. When we say forming a complete defense industry, however, we mean that it must be grounded on our economic and technological capacity. Therefore, our military scientists and technicians must study to produce weapons to match our combat methods.

Research into the military arts and technological research must be closely linked. Although we still face many difficulties, building the defense industry is a long-term project. Therefore, we have to grasp the world's modern scientific and technological achievements.

Strengthening national defense, building the defense industry, and building the people's armed force must be placed within a general strategic plan for national socioeconomic development, industrialization, and modernization. We must institutionalize state management of national defense. This is the only way we can mobilize the defensive strength of the entire country and people to build an efficient defense industry of good quality.

Finally, we must strive to concretely implement our party lines and policies on military activities while building a contingent of competent officers with sound political background and professional skills. The background of our Army officers is presently not up to par, especially those who work at research institutes and specialists who work for scientific-technological and industrial establishments. For this reason, in the days ahead, we must pay special attention to training and fostering the contingent of our officers. We must formulate correct and appropriate policies to attract more competent people to join the army while striving to optimally develop the capabilities of the existing officers. Experience shows that when we have a contingent of capable officers with a firm political background and who are determined to serve the party and state, we can overcome all difficulties and ordeals.

Our Army has undergone almost 50 years of building, combat, and training. Living up to the law of evolution, we should strive to attain an ever higher achievement in making our Army a revolutionary, standard, seasoned, and modernized force to firmly uphold the glorious tradition and revolutionary characteristics of our army, which was founded, trained, and fostered by Uncle Ho and our party.

In commemorating the upcoming 50th founding aniverary of the Vietnam People's Army, we must strive to enhance its progress in various domains, especially the standardization of the Army. To standardize our Army we have to strive to satisfactorily fulfill the following tasks:

—Fully and effectively implement various regulations, disciplines, and tasks;

—Seriously observe Army etiquette and good behavior of soldiers; and

—Urge military personnel to wear military uniforms according to regulation design.

In 1994, we must strive to effect initial changes to create a base for further development of the Army in the ensuing years. This requires great efforts from the leadership, echelons of commanders, all cadres, party members, and combatants along with support and assistance from echelons of party committees, the administration, people, ministries, and sectors.

Although we still face numerous difficulties and ordeals currently and extending into the last years of the 20th century, the firm foundations established through the renovation process in our country have created favorable conditions and opportunities for us to advance further. With our party's correct lines and policies in the renovation and with the unity and solidarity between the army and the people, we will certainly score ever greater achievements in the renovation undertading, thereby firmly and effectively protecting national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of our beloved Vietnamese socialist fatherland.

Finance Minister Discusses Budget Deficit

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[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 18—Vietnam's budget deficit now is still high, at about 5-6 per cent compared with the gross domestic product (GDP), but it has some positively changes, said Minister of Finance Ho Te in an interview to the NHAN DAN daily.

He noted that the overspending was for investment in economic development, not for regular consumption.

The minister pointed to the main reason of the deficit which included the weakness of the country's economic potentials and low effectiveness of production and business, the increasing requirements for spending at the current period and the lack of a systematic mechanism of budget management.

In the coming years, overspending may still exist, he continued, but various measures should be applied to keep the rate lower than 5 per cent of GDP. These measures, he added, shall include: to make full use of all domestic resources of revenues through encouraging the expansion of production and business to attract foreign investment in infrastructure building and work out a law on domestic investment to encourage all economic sectors to develop production and business, thus increasing revenues to the budget, and to renew the mechanism of state budget management by the promulgation of a budget law.

Deforestation Plan Shows 'Limited' Results

BK1812154393 Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi, Dec. 18 (VNA)—Vietnam now has around 20 million hectare of forests and forestland; but this includes 11.4 million hectares of bare hills and wasteland. Vietnam's forests cover 8.4 million hectares, and have a timber reserve of 657.3 million cubic metres and about 5.5 billion bamboo trees. Of the reserve, timber [word indistinct] bamboo in production [words indistinct] 62 per cent and 70 per cent respectively. Half of the timber is found in the central highlands and more than 20 per cent is in the central coast areas. The [words indistinct] the size of protected forests increases every year, while production forests decline. This is because the rate of destruction is quicker than the growth rate of the trees.

Forests in Vietnam have suffered serious devastation over the past several decades, partly to bombardments and US chemicals spraying during the Vietnam war, but mostly by indiscriminate tree felling for fuel, cultivation and construction, about [words indistinct]. This has led to a higher frequency of droughts and floods due to soil erosion, particularly areas on the coast.

Defoliant used by the US have deprived Vietnam's forests of around 75 million cubic metres of timber worth billion of dollars.

To curb this alarming rate of deforestation, the best approach is to rely on the force of the population. The number living in the forest land is now estimated at 22 million persons.

Efforts have been made in recent years to allocate areas of forest for the long-term use of each farmer household. However, the results have been limited. Only 13,800 hectares with a timber reserve of 338,000 cubic metres have been allotted to families

Seven Generators in Use at Hoa Binh Power Plant

BK1812142393 Hanoi VNA in English 1231 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 18—The Hoa Binh Hydro-Electric Power Plant, south-west of Hanoi, had by mid-December generated 4,550 billion KwH, fulfilling the scheduled plan for this year.

At this time, seven generators of the plant have become operational, supplying 80-90 percent of electricity to northern provinces with capacity of 12 million KwH per day.

Now work has been accelerated for the installation of the eighth turbine. This last turbine is expected to be in place on March 25, next year, so that it can be connected to the 500 KV trans-Viet high voltage transmission line.

When the eighth and last turbine is ready in the first quarter of next year, the plant, four times the size of the country's second biggest built at Tri An, in the south, will turn out as much as 1,920 MW a year when operating at full capacity.

Radio Reviews Dec TAP CHI CONG SAN

BK2012144093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Summary] The journal begins this issue with a series of articles by party and state leaders summing up a number of major issues that the country has faced while implementing the renovation undertaking initiated by the sixth party congress.

In addition to a speech delivered by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], at the seventh congress of the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers, entitled "Strive to Make Trade Unions Truly Represent the Strength, Talents, and Wisdom of Tens of Millions of Workers and Laborers in Our Country," the journal also carries a speech delivered by Nguyen Duc Binh, Political Bureau member, at a seminar to mark the 50th anniversary of Vietnam's cultural platform, entitled "For the Sake of a Progressive Culture Which is Imbued With National Traits." These speeches are followed by the following articles:

—An article by General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau and minister of national defense, entitled "Fully Understand the All-People National Defense Concept and Strengthen State Management Over National Defense," and

—An article by Truong My Hoa, secretary of the party Central Committee and chairwoman of the Vietnam Women's Union, entitled "Let's Take an Even Firmer Step To Renovate Women's Cadre-Related Work."

On the occasion of the second national congress of the Vietnam Peasants Association, the journal carries an article entitled "Develop the Key Role of the Vietnam Peasants Association in Promoting Socioeconomic Development in the Countryside."

Appearing first in the "Research and Exchanges of Views" section is an article by Duong Thong entitled "An Important Task To Be Done To Foil the Peaceful Evolution Strategy." After pointing out that following the crumbling of the CPSU and a number of other communist parties in Eastern Europe, the enemy has directed its offensives against the communist parties in the remaining socialist countries, including Vietnam, the author stresses: Faced with that situation, the party and state have adopted measures to foil hostile forces' peaceful evolution strategy to defend our party, state, regime, and our people's renovation cause. The author then suggests six practical measures to make this struggle a success. This is followed by the following articles:

—An article by Tao Huu Phung, deputy minister of finance, entitled "An Instrument To Regulate Macro-Economic Activities." The article deals with the important role of the tax system in regulating macroeconomic activities, especially during the transition to the market mechanism.

—An article by Nguyen Ngoc Hung, an economic specialist at the Social Science and Human Culture Center based in Ho Chi Minh City, entitled "Concerning the Need To Change State Enterprise Models in Our Country." The article analyzes the causes leading to the ineffectiveness of the traditional state enterprise model and stresses the need to vigorously shift to the share-holding enterprise model.

Appearing last in this section is an article by Nguyen Cao Gian, entitled "Vietnam's Oil and Gas Market: Facts and Solutions." The article deals with incidents involving tax fraud and tax evasion by a number of oil and gas corporations and units, the lack of equal competition opportunities, and overlapping and waste of investment capital. The author concludes by suggesting a number of ways to overcome this sorry state of affairs.

Appearing first in the "Investigation" section is an article by Nhat Tan, entitled "The Campaign To Eliminate Hunger and Reduce Poverty in Hung Ha." The article is about the success story of Hung Ha District, Thai Binh Province, in formulating correct orientations and measures to eliminate hunger, reduce poverty, and build a new countryside. This is followed by an article by Le Huu Khanh of the Ho Chi Minh Institute of National Politics entitled "The Situation Concerning the Body of Cadres in Charge of Grass Roots Establishments in the Countryside at Present." The author makes an in-depth analysis of a number of issues relating to the organization of and policies toward cadres in charge of grass roots establishments in the countryside.

The "Ideological Activities" section carries an article by Doan Hong Que, entitled "Is It Legal To Enrich Oneself That Way?" After presenting several cases of high-ranking cadres enriching themselves in a very short time through embezzlement or theft of public property, the author suggests that the party and state take resolute measures to put an end to this unhealthy situation and restore the masses' trust in the regime.

In this issue, the journal carries two articles about some books written recently by foreign and Vietnamese writers. The first article by Duong Tung provides several literary critics on a book by a foreign writer entitled "The Cat" and on a collection of short stories by Nguyen Quang Sang. In the the second article by Tran Huu Nghiep, the journal introduces the author's impressions on a number of literary works published recently.

Appearing in the "The World: Problems and Facts" section is an article by Nguyen Thi Hoa, entitled "Concerning the Scientific-Technological Revolution in the Modern Age." The article points out the positive and negative impacts of the scientific-technological revolution on world socioeconomic life and stresses the need for Vietnam to work out a sound policy to promote science and technology in a rational manner to meet the requirements of national construction.

Found in the "Through Foreign Books and Newspapers" section is an article by Kieu Dinh, entitled "China's Search for a Socialist Market Eeconomy Modality."

Appearing in the "Learning About Concepts" section is an article introducing two concepts about shareholding corporations and the stock market.

The journal carries in the "News About Theoretical Activities" section reports on a seminar under the theme Marxism-Leninism and Our Times and on a symposium under the theme the Russian October Revolution and the Political Issues Facing the World at Present.